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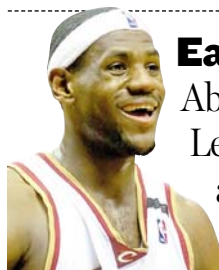
Hunger, Disease Loom



An Iraqi girl cries after a Baghdad car bombing.

Violent Surge: Iraqi police targeted in string of insurgent attacks that kill at least 25 | **6**

Triple Treat: Mother gives birth to daughter's triplets | **9**

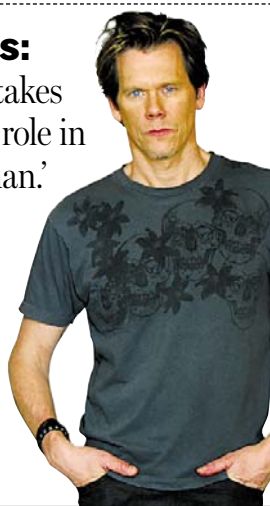


Early Achiever:
About to turn 20, LeBron James is already among NBA's best | **12**

ENTERTAINMENT

Bacon Bits:
Kevin Bacon takes on a tortured role in 'The Woodsman.' Also, Judas Priest lives; Patricia Arquette sees dead people.

>> **13-16**



Weather > Partly Sunny



52 | 38

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 29



PARADISE LOST: A rescue crew surveys a flooded hotel lobby on Phuket Island, Thailand, on Tuesday.

U.S. Adds \$20M to Quake Relief

WASHINGTON | The U.S. Agency for International Development is adding \$20 million to an initial \$15 million contribution for Asian earthquake relief as Secretary of State Colin Powell bristled at a United Nations official's suggestion that the United States has been "stingy."

Describing the \$20 million as a "line of credit," Deputy State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said the new total of \$35 million is bound to be increased. "We know the needs will grow," he said.

Powell, irritated by the U.N. official's criticism, toured morning television talk shows to

say the Bush administration will follow up its contributions with additional large sums.

"The United States has given more aid in the last four years than any other nation or combination of nations in the world," Powell said when asked about the comments by Jan Egeland, the U.N. humanitarian aid chief.

At a news conference on Monday, Egeland exhorted "rich" nations to do more. "It is beyond me why are we so stingy, really," he said. Egeland said on Tuesday, however, that his remarks had been misinterpreted and were not directed toward any particular country. **BARRY SCHWEID (AP)**

Tsunami toll exceeds 55,000 and may climb much higher

BANDA ACEH, INDONESIA | Hungry refugees survived on coconuts or looted food on Indonesia's battered Sumatra island Tuesday as the region's death toll from a mammoth earthquake and tsunami rose above 55,000. The U.N. health agency warned that epidemics could claim as many lives.

There were vast areas of devastation in Indonesia where the bodies had not been counted. An official said 10,000 people might have died in the area around one Sumatran town, which would be the worst death toll in a single location.

Sri Lanka listed 21,715 people dead, India 4,400 and Thailand 1,500, with the toll expected to rise. A total of more than 300 were killed in Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Somalia, Tanzania, Seychelles and Kenya.

AMERICANS

Caught in tsunami:

→ **12:** Confirmed dead: 5 in Thailand, 7 in Sri Lanka.

→ **Missing:** Several hundred, but State Department says many likely alive.

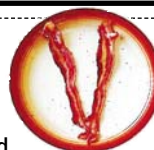
In India, a police official said 8,000 people were missing and feared dead, most of them on two island chains. Along India's southeastern coast, hospital teams stood by to help the injured, but three days after the disaster still spent most of their time tabulating the dead.

Indonesia's Health Ministry said in a statement that thousands more bodies were found Tuesday, raising to more than 27,000 the number of confirmed deaths in parts of Sumatra island, the territory closest to the epicenter of the quake that sent tsunami waves rolling across the Indian Ocean.

"The sea was full of bodies," said one refugee, who sailed a small boat to Banda Aceh, on Sumatra's northern tip, to seek help for his family in Surang. He said his family had nothing to eat but coconuts. "I don't know how long everyone else will survive," he said. **(AP)**

♦ **Second disaster:** Death by disease feared | **Page 5**

DIETS | Hog Wild Jon Cofield of London has eaten only bacon sandwiches as his main meal for 45 years. He even ate one for Christmas dinner — with holly on top. Even though he's consumed some 20,000 bacon sandwiches over the years, the 48-year-old



Cofield remains slim, Asian News International reported. He says he's never been seriously ill and is told after every physical exam that he's healthy. He supplements his diet with cereal for breakfast and chocolate for lunch. **(EXPRESS) EyeOpeners | Page 2**

eyeOpeners

COMAS

Boss's Orders

A Revere, Mass., man who drank himself into a coma woke up after a message from his boss to "Get your ass back to work!" was relayed to him. In November, after Bill DiPasquale was fired from his waiter's job at Abe & Louie's steakhouse in Boston because of drinking, he locked himself in his home and drank himself unconscious,

the Boston Herald reported. Relatives found him Dec. 2, and, last week, when it looked like he would not recover, his family decided to end life support efforts. When the dying man's ex-boss heard the news, he barked, "You tell him to wake up, get out of bed and get his ass back to work!" DiPasquale's friend relayed the message and five minutes later, DiPasquale suddenly awoke and uttered, "I've got to get to work." (EXPRESS)

CLUES

That's a Wrap

It wasn't tough for Columbus, Miss., police to thwart two would-be Grinchers Friday—they just followed the telltale trail of wrapping paper. Two boys, ages 14 and 12, were charged with burglary after they were accused of stealing Christmas presents



from a home, police said. After Stanley Adams discovered someone had broken into his home, police followed a trail of paper, ribbons and gift tags that led them to the home of one of the boys. The gifts—which included an E-Z Bake oven, Legos and a Pac-Man video game—were returned. (AP)



RICHARD CHUNG/REUTERS

ENGINEERING

Thai Ball

After finding a good place for a skyscraper, it's time to drop anchor. The world's biggest and heaviest tuned-mass damper, not surprisingly, helps to keep the world's tallest building—Taipei 101 in Taipei—in place. The damper, which weighs 660 tons, is insurance against structural collapse in the earthquake- and typhoon-prone city, Reuters reported. The 101-story building will hold its grand opening on Friday. (EXPRESS)

CHEMISTRY

Prank Toy Is a Real Gas

Hong Kong officials are pulling "Fart Bomb" toys from shelves because the

gift—a bag that gives off a stench—produces a dangerous chemical reaction. The mixture produced by the toy causes nausea, headaches and eye irritation, the government said last week. Officers are seizing "Fart Bombs" and

urging people to give theirs to a consumer bureau. The toy contains sulfur powder and a bag of acid. When the bag is broken, the chemicals mix, producing hydrogen sulfide and "a disgusting smell," the government said. (AP)

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05J10

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TIPPING THE SCALES: Nearing the Dec. 31 voting deadline, the common garter snake was closing in on the painted turtle's lead in Illinois' online election for a state reptile. The Eastern tiger salamander led the race for state amphibian.

Nation

In Brief

PHILADELPHIA

US Airways Asks Employees For Extra Help Over Holiday

US Airways appealed to its employees to come to Philadelphia International Airport on their days off this weekend to help boost staffing, hoping to avoid the type of Christmas fiasco that left the airline with too few workers to fly all its planes and process luggage. Separately, the airline also warned employees that it would review the records of those who called in sick last week and discipline any workers who abused their sick time. (AP)

RAMSEY, MINN.

Commercial Building Explodes, Killing 2 Workers

An explosion flattened a commercial building Tuesday, killing two workers and critically injuring a third. Rescue crews were searching the ruins for another worker. The blast caved the building into its basement, sheriff's Capt. Robert Aldrich said. A gas leak was the most likely cause of the explosion, but nothing was ruled out, Aldrich said. (AP)



Emergency workers sift through the rubble of the explosion in Ramsey, Minn.

CALIFORNIA | STORMING IN



UPROOTED: A eucalyptus tree toppled onto a car in Long Beach, Calif., on Tuesday after a powerful storm battered the southern part of the state with strong winds and up to a foot of rain, causing power outages and highway-blocking mudslides. ❖ **Wild weather:** Few deaths, injuries reported amid heavy rain, wind and mudslides in California | **Today's Post, A Section**

NASA Rolls Out Redesign

Improved fuel tank considered a key step toward shuttle launch

WASHINGTON | NASA takes a major step toward returning astronauts to space when engineers this week ship an improved rocket fuel tank that has been refitted to avoid the falling debris that caused the destruction of Columbia and the death of seven astronauts.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials said that the redesigned fuel tank, a massive vessel that supplies propellant for the launch of the space shuttle, will start a barge trip on Friday from a Mississippi plant to the launch site on Florida's east coast.

Sandy Coleman, NASA's external tank project manager, said improvements made on the fuel tank "gives us confidence that problems like what happened on Columbia will not happen again."

The total cost of the new tank, including tests and redesign, is still being calculated, but it will be more expensive than the \$40 million cost of the old-style tank, said Coleman.

NASA currently plans a May or June launch of space shuttle Discovery. PAUL RECER (AP)

Ohio Recount Trims Victory Margin

TOLEDO, OHIO | Election officials finished the presidential recount in Ohio on Tuesday, with the final tally shaving about 300 votes off President Bush's six-figure margin of victory in the state that gave him a second term.

The recount shows Bush winning Ohio by 118,457 votes over Sen. John Kerry, according to unofficial results provided to The Associated Press by the 88 counties. Lucas County, home to Toledo, was the last to finish counting.

The state had earlier declared Bush the winner by 118,775 votes and plans to adjust its totals to reflect the recount.

The Kerry campaign supported the recount, but said it did not expect the tally to change the election winner. Supporters of the recount said they wanted to make sure every valid vote was counted.

Kerry gained 734 more votes in the recount, and Bush picked up 449. JOHN SEEWER (AP)

WASHINGTON RECOUNT

→ **Republicans** are demanding a list of voters in Washington state's most populous county as the party considers a court challenge of Democrat Christine Gregoire's razor-thin victory in the governor's race, officials said Monday. A hand recount put Gregoire ahead by 130 votes out of 2.8 million cast. Previous counts had favored Republican Dino Rossi. (AP)

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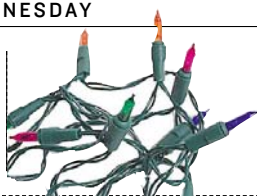
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Allergies?

Nation



DUPE THE HALLS: Alek Komarnitsky, who boasted to reporters worldwide that his Web site allowed visitors to turn the Christmas lights off and on at his Colorado home, told the Wall Street Journal on Monday it was an elaborate hoax to spread holiday cheer.

Inaugural Tickets Hard to Come By

Passes to swearing-in ceremony become a hot GOP commodity

WASHINGTON | It's one of the hottest tickets in Washington this winter, and unlike most of the parties planned for President Bush's second inauguration, it's free and the dress is come-however-you-can-stay-warm. But getting one of the 250,000 tickets to Bush's swearing-in ceremony on the steps of the Capitol won't be easy, particularly for people from so-called red states that voted Republican in November.

For most people, the only way they can get a ticket is through their

senator or representative and the demand for them in GOP-majority states is running high, congressional aides say.

Each senator, regardless of party, gets 400 tickets to distribute. House members get about 200 apiece. To meet the demand, Republican lawmakers are turning to Democrats for their leftovers.

For example, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts — the Democratic challenger Bush defeated — had only about 220 requests for tickets last week, said spokesman David Wade.

Other people invited who may have an extra ticket include former members of Congress and governors. **JESSE J. HOLLAND (AP)**

MIAMI | WRONG TURN



CLOSE QUARTERS: Chris Plante, of the Miami Seaquarium, who spent the night with two manatees that got stuck in a storm drain, tries to help free one of them on Tuesday in Miami. The manatees, a mother and baby, were eventually released into the Miami River, where they swam off together.

Author, Critic Susan Sontag Dies

Susan Sontag, one of America's most influential intellectuals, internationally renowned for her critical intelligence and her ardent activism in the cause of human rights, died Tuesday of leukemia at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. She was 71.

The author of 17 books, translated into 32 languages, she vaulted to public attention and critical acclaim with the 1964 publication of "Notes on Camp," written for Partisan Review and included in "Against Interpretation," her first collection of essays, published two years later.



Sontag

A self-described "besotted aesthete" and "obsessed moralist," Sontag sought to challenge conventional thinking.

Her papers — manuscripts, diaries, journals and correspondence — as well as her personal library were acquired by the University of California-Los Angeles Library in 2002 and will be housed in the library's department of special collections.

STEVE WASSERMAN (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

FDA Approves New Medication For Severe Pain

WASHINGTON | The government approved a drug Tuesday that offers a new way of fighting severe pain — an option for patients who no longer benefit from morphine and other traditional pain medications.

It's the first in a new class of drugs that selectively blocks the nerve channels responsible for transmitting pain signals. It will be marketed as Prialt and should be available by the end of January.

"When you've taken all the kinds of pain medication that there is and you still have pain, that is a very frightening situation," said Dr. Lars Ekman, of the drug's Ireland-based manufacturer, Elan.

Morphine is the standard treatment for severe pain, but its effects eventually wear off and the dosage must be increased or altered.

The idea for the drug came from a snail called the *Conus magus*, which paralyzes its victims with venom after capturing them, the company said. Researchers based development of the drug on this venom. (AP)

Today in The Washington Post

Nuclear Threats: In the post-9/11 world, the question of whether terrorists can actually acquire and use weapons of mass destruction poses complex questions. | [Page A1](#)

Hang Time: Once, boys' basketball ruled the school gymnasium. But today, hoops compete with an array of other sports for space in the area's indoor gyms. | [Metro](#)

Soccer Standoff: The U.S. Soccer Federation has postponed the start of training camp for the U.S. men's national team due to a contract dispute. | [Sports](#)

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CRIMINAL ASSAULT: Don't carry your passport and leave your jewels at the hotel. That's the kind of advice visitors will begin hearing at airports and hotels in violent Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, under a new effort to curb crime against tourists.



World

THAILAND | AT WATER'S EDGE



RECOVERY EFFORTS: Workers stand near dead bodies washed ashore in Ton Sai Bay in Thailand's Phi Phi island on Tuesday. People in nations bordering the Indian Ocean from Indonesia to Sri Lanka searched through the wreckage of the devastating quake-triggered tsunami for bodies to bury on Tuesday as the death toll topped 50,000.

LUIS ENRIQUE ASCUI/REUTERS

Hundreds of Americans Still Reported Missing

WASHINGTON | Hundreds of Americans remain missing two days after devastating tsunamis struck Asia, but the State Department says a large number have been located and are safe.

The State Department said Tuesday that 12 Americans had died, seven in Sri Lanka and five in Thailand. Bush administration

officials sought to allay concerns about the missing, saying it might simply be a matter of not getting in touch with U.S. authorities in Asia. Still, the State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli told reporters, "I would not presume to tell you that the casualty figure we have today is final."

So far, more than 80 Westerners have been confirmed dead across the region. But a British consulate official in Thailand warned that hundreds more foreign tourists were likely killed in that country's resorts. BARRY SCHWEID (AP)

HEARSAY | DESPAIR

"People are looting, but not because they are evil. [It's because] they are hungry."

—IRMAN RACHMAT, RED CROSS OFFICIAL
AFTER DESPERATE RESIDENTS IN SUMATRA'S ACEH PROVINCE STARTED LOOTING STORES WHEN AID DIDN'T ARRIVE QUICKLY ENOUGH.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO RELIEF EFFORTS

The following agencies are accepting contributions to help assist those affected by this week's earthquake and tidal waves across Asia.

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Epidemics May Double Deaths

Casualties from disease may dwarf toll from quake, tsunamis

GENEVA | The World Health Organization warned that disease in the aftermath of southern Asia's tsunami disaster could kill as many people as the deadly waves and earthquake have.

Governments in 11 nations are still trying to determine how many were killed in the devastation wreaked by Sunday's quake and the tsunamis it caused. The death toll now stands at more than 50,000 and is expected to rise.

But with relief officials warning of possible cholera epidemics and malaria, Dr. David Nabarro, head of crisis operations for WHO, told reporters Tuesday in Geneva that "there is certainly a chance that we could have as many dying from communicable diseases as from the tsunami."

Nabarro said the main threat to life now is communicable diseases associated with a lack of clean water and sanitation.

"The initial terror associated with the tsunamis and the earth-

quake itself may be dwarfed by the longer term suffering of the affected communities," Nabarro warned.

Hospitals and health services already are overwhelmed and may not be able to cope with people who fall ill with disease, Nabarro said.

Relief organizations are distributing supplies, and the United Nations has said it will likely make its largest ever appeal for humanitarian funding in response to the disaster. The hardest-hit countries are Indonesia, whose Aceh region was closest to the epicenter of Sunday's earthquake; Sri Lanka and Thailand. SAM CAGE (AP)

IN TODAY'S POST

Facing Ruin: Sunday's tsunami upended the lives of rich and poor alike | [Section A](#)

Scene in Sumatra: From area that bore double shocks from quake, tsunamis | [Section A](#)

The Funds: U.S. doubles aid commitment amid complaints over initial amount | [Section A](#)

Questions: Thais and tourists alike are asking why rescue efforts took so long | [Section A](#)

Train's Idyllic Journey Ends in Horror

802 people died after waves swept it off tracks in Sri Lanka

TELWATTA, SRI LANKA | The train known as the Queen of the Sea chugged slowly up the sandy, palm-fringed coast of eastern Sri Lanka, carrying hundreds of residents from the capital to visit relatives or enjoy a day at the sunny resorts near the town of Galle.

The train had nearly reached its destination Sunday when the tsunami struck — a wall of water some 30 feet high, enveloping the Queen and lifting its cars off the track into a thick marsh, killing at



Buddhist monks and villagers search for the missing along railroad tracks at Telwatta, south of Colombo, Tuesday.

least 802 people.

In the utter wasteland around this once picturesque area, the train

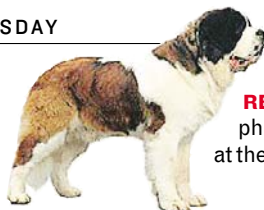
stands out — both as a testament to the force of nature that tossed it off the tracks and as the largest single loss of life on an island that suffered at least 18,706 dead.

One thousand tickets were sold in Colombo for the train, and rescuers recovered 802 bodies from the train's cars, said military spokesman Brig. Daya Ratnayake.

At the train site, a young man wept in the arms of friends as the body of his girlfriend was buried. The distraught man spoke out to his lost sweetheart.

"We met in university. Is this the fate that we hoped for?" he sobbed. "My darling, you were the only hope for me." CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA (AP)

World



RESCUERS RESCUED: Relieving a financial burden from an order of monks, Swiss philanthropists plan to give \$4.15 million to keep the famed Saint Bernard rescue dogs at the mountain pass near Italy where they've been saving travelers since about 1660.

Dozens Die in String of Iraq Attacks

Most of those killed are Iraqi police; seen as bid to disrupt vote

BAGHDAD | In one of the bloodiest days in recent months, insurgents killed at least 25 people, mostly Iraqi police, in multiple attacks across the volatile Sunni Triangle on Tuesday and a militant group claimed it executed eight Iraqi employees of an American security company, saying they had collaborated with U.S. occupational forces.

With the insurgency that is targeting mainly U.S. troops, Iraqi officials and security forces escalating ahead of Jan. 30 parliamentary elections, Iraqi lawmakers appealed for national unity, fearing the militants could trigger civil war.

"The terrorists intend to destroy Iraq's national unity," said a statement issued by the Interim National Assembly. "Their intentions are to harm this country which faces crucial challenges amid a very difficult period."

The National Assembly is a temporary legislature that will be replaced by an elected assembly after the Jan. 30 vote, the first free elections in Iraq since 1958.



BALLOTING ACT: A worker prepares a billboard in Baghdad on Tuesday that urges Iraqi citizens to vote in Jan. 30 parliamentary elections, the country's first free vote since 1958. The sign reads in Arabic "To Give Our Children a Better Country."

The local Al-Iraqiya television network reported that a total of 34 people died on Tuesday, including 26 police officers and national guard troops, but that figure could not be independently confirmed.

In one of the deadliest attacks, gunmen stormed a police station

near Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, overwhelming 12 Iraqi policemen, slitting their throats and then blowing up the building, said Lt. Col. Saad Hmoud, a local police official.

Militants released a videotape Tuesday, saying they have executed eight people and released two Iraqis

who were employed by Sandi Group, an American security company, and had been held hostage since Dec. 13. **DUSAN STOJANOVIC (AP)**

Unquiet again: The attack near Tikrit broke a months-long stretch of relative peace | **Today's Post: Section A**

In Brief

SOUTH ASIA

Foreign Ministers Convene Landmark Talks on Kashmir

Top Foreign Ministry officials from Pakistan and India held a landmark dialogue on their dispute over the Himalayan region of Kashmir during peace talks Tuesday aimed at resolving five decades of enmity. The foreign secretaries of the two South Asian rivals concluded two days of meetings in Islamabad and agreed to carry forward wide-ranging peace talks in the months ahead. **(AP)**

COLOMBIA

Reputed Drug Leader Nabbed

Police captured a reputed leader of the Norte del Valle drug cartel Tuesday, the latest arrest in a U.S.-backed bid to dismantle a gang accused of trafficking half of all cocaine sold in the United States in the 1990s. Dagoberto Florez was on a list of most-wanted cocaine kingpins sought by U.S. authorities under a New York court order in May. The U.S. government offered a \$5 million reward for his capture. **(AP)**

MIDDLE EAST

Rousing Reception for Abbas At His First Public Rally

Interim Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, the front-runner in upcoming presidential elections, received a loud ovation from thousands of supporters at his first public rally Tuesday, generating some excitement for the low-key politician seeking to replace the late Yasser Arafat. The rally came as Palestinian election officials announced anti-fraud safeguards for the Jan. 9 vote, saying voters will be marked with indelible ink, among other measures. **(AP)**



Abbas waves to supporters in the West Bank town of Jericho on Tuesday. **(AP)**

Victor in Ukraine Urges Demonstrations' Return

Yushchenko tells his supporters to blockade government buildings

KIEV, UKRAINE | Viktor Yushchenko, fresh from his victory in Ukraine's disputed presidential race, called on his supporters Tuesday to blockade the Cabinet of Ministers building to prevent his opponent from holding a government session.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, the Kremlin favorite who has come under increasing pressure to concede defeat to Yushchenko, returned to work Tuesday after taking a vacation to campaign ahead of last Sunday's vote.

The opposition blockaded government buildings for weeks after the fraudulent Nov. 21 vote, preventing Yanukovich and other officials from entering their offices. The country's high court annulled that ballot, forcing Sunday's rerun.

"I ask everyone, especially the people in the tent camp, to strengthen the blockade," Yushchenko said.

Oleksandr Ternavsky, Yanukovich's spokesman, said the session would go ahead as planned, and called Yushchenko's move "completely illegal." Under Ukrainian law, the prime minister can retain his post until replaced by the incumbent president or the president-elect. **ANNA MELNICHUK (AP)**

PAY AS YOU GO: Russia plans to stop giving American astronauts free rides on its spacecraft to the international space station beginning in 2006, the head of Russia's space agency said Tuesday. Russian ships have been the sole link to the international space station since U.S. shuttles were grounded after the shuttle Columbia burned up on re-entry in February 2003. **(AP)**

Jailed Oil Magnate Lashes Out at Officials in Russia

MOSCOW | In his harshest criticism of the Kremlin to date, jailed tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky accused the Russian government of stealing his Yukos oil empire and warned in a letter published Tuesday that an ongoing crackdown on post-Soviet freedoms will ruin the country.

Writing from prison, where he has been for more than 14 months, Khodorkovsky said the sale of Yukos' main production unit into state

hands this month "was the most senseless and destructive event in the economic sphere since President Vladimir Putin has taken helm."

"Using selective justice, introducing new legal norms and applying them retroactively," the state has undermined trust in the legal system, said Khodorkovsky, who is charged with fraud and tax evasion.

Putin has cast the 18-month crackdown on Khodorkovsky and Yukos as an effort to fight corruption and shady bookkeeping. But most observers see it as a vendetta for Khodorkovsky's perceived political ambitions, including his funding of opposition parties. **(AP)**

Money

Video Giants Lock Horns

Blockbuster threatens hostile bid for Hollywood

DALLAS | Blockbuster Inc. said Tuesday it will launch a hostile bid for Hollywood Entertainment Corp. next month if the rival's directors won't negotiate a deal.

Blockbuster, the nation's largest movie-rental chain, said it would offer stockholders of its top rival \$11.50 per share in cash, or about \$700 million, plus the assumption of \$300 million of Hollywood debt, in mid-January. That's the same offer that Blockbuster made to

Hollywood in November.

The cash tender offer is the latest salvo in a competition for Hollywood that pits Blockbuster against Hollywood chairman Mark Wattles and a Los Angeles investment firm, who have offered \$10.25 per share, or about \$624 million.

If it succeeds in buying Hollywood, Blockbuster would control about half the nation's rental stores. Edward B. Stead, Blockbuster's general counsel,

said the company has spoken with officials at the Federal Trade Commission and is "very optimistic" about winning necessary regulatory approval for the takeover.

Blockbuster believes that by acquiring Wilsonville, Ore.-based Hollywood, it can better compete in the changing home entertainment market. Blockbuster is locked in a price war with online pioneer Netflix Inc. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. for rentals ordered on the Internet and delivered through the mail. DAVID KOENIG (AP)

Forecaster Puts Toyota Ahead of Chrysler by '09

DETROIT | Japanese automaker Toyota Motor Corp. is on pace to unseat DaimlerChrysler AG as the third-leading U.S. seller of cars and trucks by the end of the decade, a forecasting firm says.

CSM Worldwide said Tuesday its long-range forecast has Toyota, including the Lexus and Scion brands, accounting for 14.1 percent of the U.S. market by 2009, slightly ahead of DaimlerChrysler's 14 percent. Such growth would be nothing new for Japan's No. 1 automaker,

whose U.S. sales rose 6.3 percent last year and were up 9.3 percent for the first 11 months of 2004.

At the same time, General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co., the nation's two-largest carmakers, have lost business to foreign brands despite spending far more on consumer incentives in hopes of lifting sales.

By 2009, CSM predicts GM to account for 25 percent of the U.S. market, followed by Ford at 19.2 percent. JOHN PORRETTO (AP)

Views on Economy Improve Greatly

NEW YORK | Improving labor market conditions and cheaper energy prices led to a sharp increase in a widely watched indicator of consumer confidence in the U.S. economy in December, a good sign for growth heading into the new year.

The Conference Board, a business research group, reported Tuesday that its index of consumer confidence leapt by nearly 10 points to 102.3 in December from 92.6 in November, following four months of declines. It was the highest level for the indicator since July, well above the 94 investors expected. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
OCA Inc	6.70	+1.01	+17.8
Milacron	3.16	+2.22	+7.5
Frontline s	47.63	+3.23	+7.3
CmpTsk	5.24	+3.35	+7.2
CmcMtl	51.25	+3.05	+6.3

Losers

Turksh	16.13	-1.82	-10.1
PetroKaz g	32.99	-2.88	-8.0
AmrRlty	9.94	-.51	-4.9
AlliedCap	24.46	-1.15	-4.5
Cryolife	6.40	-.30	-4.5

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	5.25	5.25
Fed Funds close	2.25	2.25
3-month	2.22	2.18
2-year	3.07	3.03
10-year	4.30	4.17
30-year	4.92	4.80

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
AnlySur	3.97	+1.42	+55.7
VTTeddy	6.50	+2.00	+44.4
EuroTech s	6.25	+1.88	+43.0
Irvine	2.94	+7.77	+35.5
ElecSen	4.95	+1.16	+30.6

Losers

PegasCm If	8.77	-.83	-8.6
Catuity rs	4.52	-.42	-8.5
Dynavax n	7.63	-.67	-8.1
AbigailA	20.02	-1.70	-7.8
BigDogH	6.15	-.50	-7.5

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5182	.5172	.5649
Canadian Dollar	1.2163	1.2193	1.3080
European Euro	.7348	.7342	.8046
Japanese Yen	103.03	103.10	107.17
Mexican Peso	11.2340	11.1545	11.2240
Taiwanese Dollar	32.02	32.17	34.05

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
+78.41	+22.97	+8.62
+0.73	+1.07	+0.72
10854.54	2177.19	1213.54

Media Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
ClearChan	33.57	-.11	-28.3
Comcast	33.00	+.61	+.6
Comc sp	32.54	+.56	+4.0
DirectTV	16.48	+.28	-.4
Disney	27.99	+.24	+20.0
Fox Ent	31.42	-.09	+7.8
Gannett	80.89	+.17	-9.3
GTelevisa	60.70	+1.59	+52.3
LibtyMA	11.05	+.07	+12.3
McGrH	91.24	+.70	+30.5
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NewsCpB n	19.22	+.17	+8.3
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Local

Stalemate Likely In Md. Assembly

House, Senate reject Gov. Ehrlich's medical malpractice reform bill

ANNAPOLIS, MD. | The two houses of the General Assembly set out on divergent paths toward medical malpractice insurance reform Tuesday after rejecting Gov. Robert Ehrlich's plan to resolve what the state's political leaders agree is a burgeoning health care crisis in Maryland.

The Senate approved a bill drafted by Democratic leaders that differs significantly from the bill Ehrlich proposed when he brought lawmakers back to Annapolis for a special legislative session to try to provide doctors some relief from soaring malpractice insurance premiums.

The Senate version does not include some of the restrictions on malpractice lawsuits, called tort reform, proposed by the governor.

Later in the day, the House Rules Committee approved a House leadership bill that is closer to Ehrlich's tort reform plans. But like the Senate bill, it would use a two percent tax on premiums paid by managed care organizations to underwrite the cost of the malpractice reforms, a tax rejected by Ehrlich.

With the two houses far apart on tort reform and Ehrlich saying he would veto any bill that included the HMO tax, it appeared unlikely that any bill could be passed that would be acceptable to the governor and the General Assembly.

TOM STUCKEY (AP)

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SPARROWS POINT, MD. | AN EARLY SMOKE



CHRIS GARDNER/AP

RED DAWN: The morning sunrise is seen through the smoke raising from the International Steel Group steelmill in Sparrows Point, Md., on Tuesday.

N. Va. Group Backs Metro Sales Tax

WASHINGTON | The idea of raising the Washington region's sales tax to fund Metro got a boost Tuesday, when the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority lined up in favor.

A blue ribbon panel this month recommended a half a percent sales tax hike to be earmarked for Metro. Northern Virginia voters rejected a proposed sales tax increase for transportation in 2002. It would have pro-

vided money for mass transit and road improvements. This time, NVTAA chairman David Snyder believes things are different.

"As we dug into the public opinion surveys and other types of information, we're convinced that a Metro-only sales tax, in fact, would pass," Snyder said.

Unlike many other public transit systems, Metro lacks a dedicated funding source. MICHAEL W. KAHN (AP)

ROUNDING HOME: D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams is expected Wednesday to sign legislation outlining a stadium financing plan — a major step forward in the quest to bring baseball back to the city. The D.C. Council approved the revised bill on Dec. 21.



Local



Fifty-fifty year old Tina Cade, right, pictured earlier this month, gave birth to triplets on Tuesday. She acted as a surrogate to her daughter Camille Hammond, left.

Woman, 55, Gives Birth To Triplets for Daughter

RICHMOND, VA. | A 55-year-old woman acting as a surrogate for her daughter gave birth to triplets Tuesday.

Tina Cade delivered the two boys and one girl by Cesarean section at Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital. She experienced "mild complications," which the hospital said is not uncommon following such surgery.

The babies were not due until mid-February, but doctors decided to perform a C-section because Cade was having excessive swelling and because of concerns about her heart.

"Mommy is doing fine," Dr. James Jones Jr. said at a news conference with Cade's daughter, Camille, and son-in-law, Jason Hammond. "The babies are really doing well."

Cade carried the babies for her oldest daughter, who suffers from endometriosis. The condition affects the lining of the uterus and makes it difficult to become pregnant.

The Hammonds, both resident physicians at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, tried for four years to become pregnant. After years of offering to help, the Hammonds relented and Cade began hormone-replacement therapy. Then, in the spring, she underwent in-vitro fertilization and three embryos were implanted into her uterus.

The triplets were delivered from 12:22 to 12:24 p.m. Tuesday. The boys weighed 4 pounds, 9 ounces and 3 pounds, 12 ounces; the girl weighed 4 pounds, 10 ounces. (AP)

Area's Murder Rates Drop

Homicides fall by 19 percent in District, but rise in Prince George's

WASHINGTON | As 2004 draws to a close, homicide rates are down in the nation's capital and most of its suburbs.

The District of Columbia was pacing nearly 19 percent below last year's levels. As of Tuesday, 195 people had lost their lives as a result of homicide, compared to 240 by the same date last year, according to the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department.

Most of the region's other major jurisdictions also saw significant declines in homicide rates during 2004.

Montgomery County, Md., had a total of 17 homicides as of Tuesday, compared to 23 for all of last year. Officials noted that all but two of this year's cases have resulted in arrests or convictions.

Jurisdictions in the District's closest northern Virginia suburbs have also had limited problems with homicides. In Fairfax County there have been eight, one less than all of 2003.

"We have cleared every case this

year except two," said Officer Bud Walker of the Fairfax County Police Department.

Only one homicide has been reported this year in Arlington County, compared to three for all of 2003. Neighboring Alexandria City has seen two homicides this year, compared to four last year.

But in Prince George's County, Md., homicides were pacing well above last year's levels. As of Tuesday, there were 148, compared to 128 through Dec. 28, 2003. Police Chief Melvin C. High said he was "extremely concerned" about the numbers. DERRILL HOLLY (AP)

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The Lotteries Tuesday, Dec. 28

DISTRICT	
Mid-day Lucky Numbers	0-0-8
Evening Lucky Numbers	8-1-2
Mid-day DC 4	9-3-4-8
Evening DC 4	6-3-6-9
Quick Cash	3-34-17-21-23-4
Hot Five	27-3-1-18-31

MARYLAND	
Mid-day Pick 3	3-8-1
Evening Pick 3	0-8-5

Mid-day Pick 4	7-4-1-2
Evening Pick 4	5-1-6-8
Match 5	14-28-35-36-39 Bonus: 26

VIRGINIA	
Mid-day Pick 3 (Tues.)	2-0-6
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	4-2-4
Mid-day Pick 4 (Tues.)	0-7-9-2
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	2-3-2-4
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.)	4-12-21-24-29
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	5-9-13-19-27

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Cars



CLASH OF THE TITANS: The Nissan Titan, the company's first full-sized pickup, earned a reputation for its quality, analysts said, and is one factor that helped push Nissan to impressive sales gains this year.

XRS: A Good Sport

Toyota's '05 Corolla surprisingly packs an engine with kick

ROAD TEST | You will be forgiven a little cynicism and maybe even a snicker or two at the suggestion of a sporty Toyota Corolla. Well designed, popular and reliable, sure. But sporty?

Before you pooh-pooh, take a drive in a Corolla XRS, a new variant for '05. It could be a contender.

At the point where most of us are ready to back off and upshift, this engine is just starting to get interested in the game. And a passing maneuver or an attempt to accelerate uphill almost always requires a downshift.

It's an excellent gearbox mated to a clutch that's easy to get used to and modulate. The blaring "beep beep beep" inside the car whenever reverse is engaged, however, might drive the high-strung over the edge. It's there to warn the driver who might have accidentally engaged reverse instead of first.



The XRS is tons of fun to drive—tempting you to act like you own the road.

To the young gearheads at whom this car is aimed, the screaming engine and constant shifting are part of the fun of a performance car. You'll see these fitted with loud aftermarket mufflers and other goodies under the hood.

But Toyota gives them a good start. The XRS package also includes a sport-tuned suspension with a strut tower brace up front to help prevent twisting of the body in turns, which Toyota said also improves handling. Ride height is lowered by a half inch. And the XRS has firmer coil springs and shocks.

Four Michelin performance tires on 16-inch wheels replace the ordinary rubber on 15-inch wheels worn by other Corollas. And Toyota says it has tuned the steering system for better feedback to the driver.

A warning for those of you planning long distance drives with your XRS: The ride is very firm and the cabin is quite noisy. Both can get old after a few hours on the interstate. Test drive before writing a check.

To help stiffen the body structure, Toyota has installed a cross brace behind the rear seat.

But the XRS is great fun to drive

and all too tempting to drive aggressively. The four-wheel disc brakes do a good job of hauling the XRS down from highway speeds quickly.

A sporty interior includes front buckets with extra bolstering. You never get completely comfortable, however; get close to the steering wheel and your thighs are unsupported.

The XRS interior is attractive and well thought out, with clear gauges, simple and well-located controls, and plenty of storage room. TOM INCANTALUPO (NEWSDAY)



The seats look comfy but getting squared away with the steering wheel proves difficult. The gauges are clear and easy to comprehend, though.

2005 COROLLA XRS

POWERTRAIN: 1.8-liter, four-cylinder engine; six-speed manual, front-wheel drive.

HORSEPOWER: 170 at 7,600 rpm

TORQUE: 127 at 4,400 rpm

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61.9%

Percentage of the U.S. market shared by U.S. auto manufacturers in 2005, as estimated by forecasting firm CSM Worldwide. That's a decline of 1.5% from this year and a result of gains by Asian car brands, the firm said.

Cars



LIVE ONLINE

Car Care

Automotive expert **PAT GOSS** owns Pat Goss Car World, Inc., a local car repair company. He chats regularly on washingtonpost.com/cars.

I have a Volkswagen Passat that's been getting terrible gas mileage for the past two months (about 12 to 14 mpg). Everything seems to be

working fine, though. Do you have any idea what I should check?

Whenever you have a noticeable decrease in fuel economy begin by checking the thermostat. A cold running engine can cost two to 10 miles per gallon.

My son has offered me his 2002 Ford Taurus SE company car when it comes off lease. It's been maintained according to the Ford schedule and has 78,000 miles on it.

Could it go another 70,000 miles?

It's possible, but not likely. Most

manufacturers' preventive maintenance schedules are based on a life expectancy of 100,000 miles. To go 150,000 miles you usually need stricter maintenance.

A dealer told me to use "consistently high-quality gas" in my 2004 Subaru Forester. Which brands should I stick with to be in the high-quality range? Should I use premium gas even if my car requires only 87 octane?

There is no benefit to using premium and there actually could be

some disadvantages. High quality is any name brand.

Do you have any advice on protecting a car from being vandalized? My car's windows have been smashed twice in the past two months while it was parked in the District on 15th Street NW. Nothing was stolen (there was literally nothing in the car to tempt a thief). It's a 2001 Corolla with a loud alarm system.

The club is good. Also a pedal lock is very visual and very diffi-

cult to defeat. They may be trying to steal the car, as it is very prone to theft.

I have a 2001 Pontiac Sunfire. The windows fog whenever I'm not using the air conditioning or the defroster. This makes for cold driving in winter. Someone suggested I should stop breathing. Any practical suggestions?

Check for dampness under the floor mats. Usually fogging like yours is the result of too much moisture in the car.

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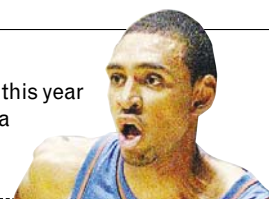
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Sports

MAGIC MAN: As Jared Jeffries goes, so go the Wizards. Washington is 6-0 this year when Jeffries scores at least ten points. The third-year forward is averaging a career-high six points per game for the Wizards (15-11) this season.



Cavs' James Ushers In a New Age

It's hard to believe with his play, but Cleveland star is just turning 20

NBA | LeBron James used to bring his birth certificate along to AAU games to prove his age.

"They questioned me because of the level of my game," the Cleveland Cavaliers forward said. "I've always played the game above my age."

Then maybe he should keep documentation of his Dec. 30, 1984, birth handy.

There remain a few NBA skeptics, who are still having hard time accepting that a 19-year-old kid who skipped college could possibly be this big, this strong, this fast, this unselfish or this good.

"I don't believe that," Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers joked when told James was still weeks away from his 20th birthday. "The way he's playing, he's got to be 30."

On Thursday, LeBron hits the big 2-0 and, hard to believe, he has already joined the NBA's elite.

"I don't call him King James," said Minnesota forward Kevin Garnett, the reigning league MVP. "I call him The Gift. A gift



BOY WONDER: Cleveland's LeBron James, seen dunking on Sunday, is averaging over 24 rebounds, seven points and seven assists a game. And he isn't 20 yet.

for Cleveland, and for the league."

In just his second season in the pros, James has raised his game to an All-Star level. Through 27 games, he's averaging 24.6 points, 7.0 rebounds, 7.3 assists and leading the league in steals (71) while carrying the Cavaliers (16-11) into first place in the Central Division.

In the first third of the season, James has dropped a career-high 43 points on the Detroit Pistons, become the youngest player to reach 500 career assists and rebounds and was named the Eastern Conference's top player for November.

Lately, he has been flirting with an elusive first career triple-double. In a win over New Orleans on Sunday, James had 22 points, a career-high 14 assists and nine rebounds. He and Kobe Bryant are the only players averaging more than 24 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

"In two or three years, when he learns the game better, he'll be unstoppable," Cleveland coach Paul Silas said. **TOM WITHERS (AP)**

Sluggish: The NBA champion Detroit Pistons can't get into gear this season | **Today's Post, Sports**

In Brief

COLLEGE FOOTBALL Louisville's Petrino, LSU Hold 'Preliminary Meeting'

Louisville football coach Bobby Petrino has met with LSU officials about the Tigers job but refused to say if he expected further talks. The LSU job opened when Nick Saban left for the Miami Dolphins, who fired Dave Wannstedt earlier this season. Petrino, who called his session with LSU a "preliminary meeting," is in Memphis, where the No. 7 Cardinals play No. 10 Boise State in the Liberty Bowl on Friday. **(AP)**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL Police: Vanderbilt Player Killed Over Car Trash Talk

Vanderbilt running back Kwane Doster was shot to death after his friends and a group of other men exchanged "trash talk" about their cars, Tampa police said Tuesday. Police continued to appeal for help in making an arrest in the Sunday morning shooting. Police said they have suspects, but need witnesses who might have seen who fired the fatal shot. **(AP)**

Rebound: Pr. George's Dennis Felton has a tough job rebuilding Georgia's basketball team | **Today's Post, Sports**

Sally Jenkins: Revenues earned in the BCS bowl games should be sent to tsunami victims | **Today's Post, Sports**

Sorenstam Repeats as Top Athlete

AWARDS | She won early and often, and often by overwhelming margins. She won on four continents — in Australia, Sweden and Japan and in six of the 50 United States. She won a major, the most money and a remarkable 10 times in just 20 starts worldwide.

Small wonder then, that what was an average year for golfer Annika Sorenstam was more than good enough to earn her recognition as The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year for the second straight year.

Her performance this season wasn't nearly as eventful as 2003, when she won two majors and 11



Annika Sorenstam won 10 of the 20 tournaments she entered this year.

times on the LPGA Tour, became the first woman since 1945 to play on the PGA Tour and entered the Hall of Fame. But it was every bit as efficient.

Sorenstam began it with a win in the ANZ Ladies Masters. She ended it by edging Cristie Kerr in a playoff in the ADT Championship — her only victory that didn't come by multiple shots. **JIM LITKE (AP)**

Bzdelik Takes Fall for Nuggets' Woes

NBA | Following a lackluster loss to Cleveland earlier this month, Denver coach Jeff Bzdelik questioned whether his players were in shape and said he was losing sleep because of the Nuggets' inconsistent play.

Unfortunately for him, things never really got better.

Denver (13-15) fired Bzdelik on Tuesday, one day after the Nuggets

lost their sixth straight game and failed again to live up to the high expectations that came with the off-season addition of All-Star forward Kenyon Martin. Assistant Michael Cooper took over on an interim basis after Bzdelik became the first NBA coach to be fired this season.

"Right now, I really felt the team needed a change," general manager Kiki Vandeweghe said. **(AP)**

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

NBA (7 P.M. ON COMCAST) Who would have guessed that the Wizards would have a better record than the Detroit Pistons at this point in the season?

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (4:30 P.M. ON ESPN) UTEP can complete a remarkable turnaround under coach Mike Price by defeating Colorado in the Houston Bowl a year after finishing 2-11.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (8 P.M. ON ESPN) A disappointing year has landed Ohio State in the Alamo Bowl vs. Oklahoma State.

HOCKEY (9:30 P.M. ON ESPN2) The U.S. plays Belarus in the preliminary round of the World Junior Championships.

COLLEGE HOOPS (7:30 P.M. ON ESPN2) Alabama tries to end Wisconsin's 34-game home-winning streak.

BASEBALL | FAREWELL



IN MEMORY: A jersey sits next to a photo collage in Colonial Heights, Va., where a funeral was held for ex-Texas Rangers and Baltimore Orioles manager Johnny Oates on Tuesday.

BACKING OUT: Two slipped discs have caused actor Nathan Lane to slide out of his final two weeks in the London West End run of "The Producers." Lane is due to begin filming a movie version of the musical with Matthew Broderick in February.



Entertainment

Registered Offender

Kevin Bacon delves into the tortured mind of a child molester

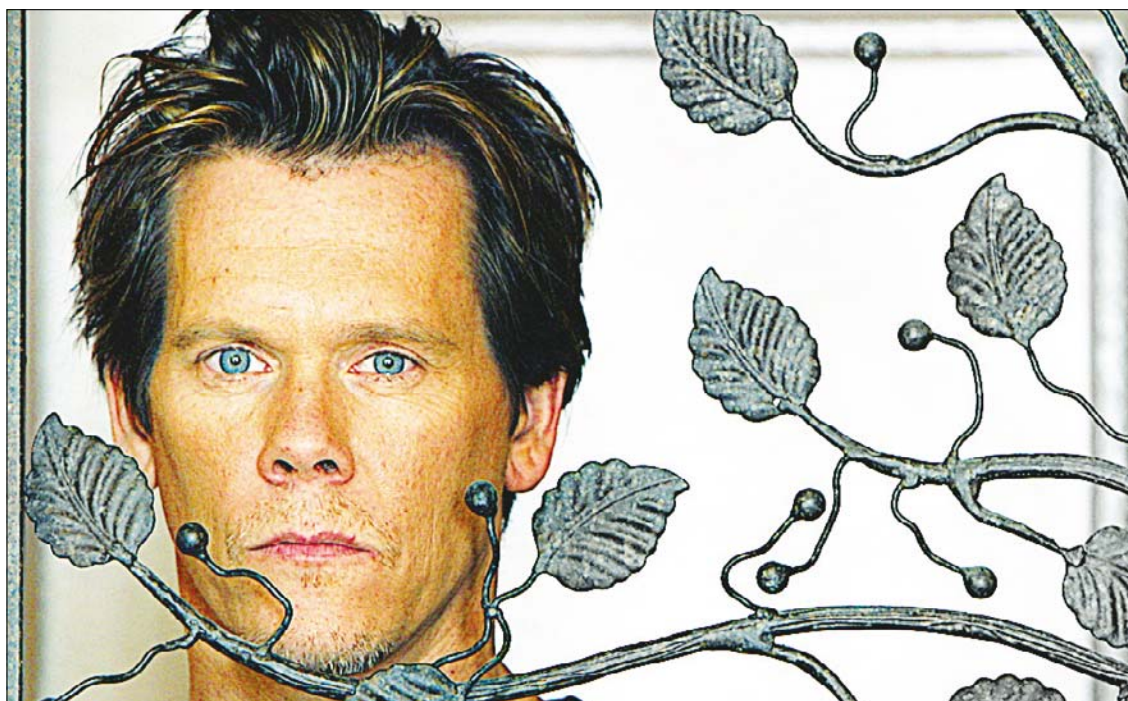
FILM | Kevin Bacon wants you to know the same thing he told his kids: No children were harmed during the making of his latest movie.

In "The Woodsman," Bacon gives a career performance as the most reviled of sex offenders, a child molester coming off 12 years in prison for abusing young girls. Filled with self-loathing, his character, Walter, makes an honorable attempt to go straight but is tormented by temptation, shunned by his family and abhorred by co-workers who discover his past.

Bacon and his wife, co-star Kyra Sedgwick, sat down to discuss the film's themes with their 15-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter.

"I told them, 'It's not a movie where you're going to see any bad things happen to children'.... It's dangerous subject matter, but it's not a gratuitous, sensationalized film."

Directed by first-time filmmaker Nicole Kassell, "The Woodsman" is adapted from a play by Steven Fechter. Along with Sedgwick, who plays a co-worker romanti-



BRANCHING OUT: Bacon says his brooding character in "The Woodsman" allowed him to showcase his dramatic abilities.

cally involved with Walter, the film co-stars rappers Mos Def and Eve, Benjamin Bratt and David Alan Grier.

Though he broke into film as a snooty frat boy in "National Lampoon's Animal House" and became a teen idol with "Footloose," Bacon said the dark tone of "The

Woodsman" was more in line with his dramatic sensibilities.

"I don't have hesitation surrounding me and my image, my persona. That doesn't apply to me in my life. I'll play anything. I've played a lot of bad guys, people who have done a lot of bad things."

The film has drawn Academy

Awards buzz for Bacon, who has never been nominated. But Bacon is resigned to the idea the Academy may pass him by.

"If it doesn't happen, of course I'll be disappointed, but if it was all I wanted in life ... I would have jumped out a window a long time ago." DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

Metal's 'Retribution'

Judas Priest readies its hard-charging post-reunion album

MUSIC | Since vocalist Rob Halford left iconic metal act Judas Priest in 1992, fans held out hope that there would some day be a reunion. In 2003, their wish came true: Halford rejoined the group with news of a summer Ozzfest berth, a planned new studio album and a world tour the following year.

The second prong of the plan is "Angel of Retribution," a new stu-

dio album due March 1 via Epic. It's Halford's first album with the band since 1990's "Painkiller." The set will be bundled with a concert DVD shot in a bullring in Valencia, Spain.

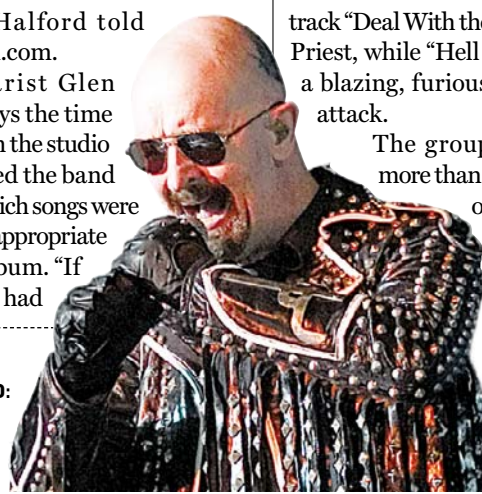
Writing for "Retribution," which is still being sequenced, began in October 2003 and continued on and off this year while Judas Priest was on the road. It was another first for the band, as it had never stopped working on an album to go on tour before.

"We didn't even intend to take a break, but the fans were going

crazy," Halford told Billboard.com.

Guitarist Glen Tipton says the time away from the studio also helped the band decide which songs were the most appropriate for the album. "If we hadn't had

SCREAM REAL LOUD: Halford hums a little ditty.



ROBERT E. KLEIN/AP

that break, maybe that wouldn't have been so clear," he admits.

The five tracks Billboard.com has heard recall the ferocious, full-on metal assault of "Painkiller." The track "Deal With the Devil" is classic Priest, while "Hell Rider" includes a blazing, furious double-guitar attack.

The group has unveiled more than a month's worth of European tour dates, beginning Feb. 23 in Copenhagen. The trek will reach North America later in the year.

CHRISTA TITUS (BILLBOARD.COM)

Today's Top Stops

FOR COMPLETE EVENT LISTINGS SEE
WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

Revolutionary Sounds: O.A.R. Makes Waves

It's a little slice of Maryland right here in D.C. The boys of O.A.R. — Of a Revolution for those less abbreviationally inclined — are bringing the instruments, you just bring your ears if you want to hear a pot luck sampling of college-style groove-rock with a hint of reggae tossed in for flavor. Tickets are scarce, so you may need to pool some cash and work your connections to score a pass inside.

9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; 7:30 p.m., 703-218-6500. (U St.-Cardozo)



HOME TURF: Boasting two Rockville natives, O.A.R. cut their teeth in D.C.

Uncommon Folk: Big Hillbilly Bluegrass

Bob Perilla and his band, Big Hillbilly Bluegrass, have honed their hard-driving brand of folky country at Madam's Organ, a staple Adams Morgan nightspot. Now they're taking their foot-stomping to the Kennedy Center's carpeted floors.

Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, 2700 F St. NW; 6 p.m., free; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom)

Arrested Development: Young Buck

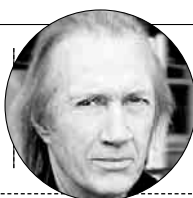
Sure, he was charged with stabbing a guy at last month's Vibe awards. But that doesn't mean you should avoid rapper Young Buck's piercing glare and incisive beats. Just be sure to cheer.

Fur Nightclub, 33 Patterson St. NE; 8 p.m., \$25; 202-842-3401.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com

Entertainment



WHAT'S THAT SOUND? Actor David Carradine and rapper Kurupt are joining forces for "Click," an urban Western film set at the end of the Civil War, according to The Hollywood Reporter. The movie will feature a hip-hop-heavy soundtrack.

Films for the Ages

ARCHIVES | Films teaching Cold War children to "duck and cover" and describing how Oskar Schindler saved thousands of Jews from the Holocaust are being added to the National Film Registry. Also being preserved: Elvis Presley, Bruce Lee and Jerry Lewis.

They are among 25 films selected by the Library of Congress to the registry, which now holds 400 pictures.

Librarian of Congress James

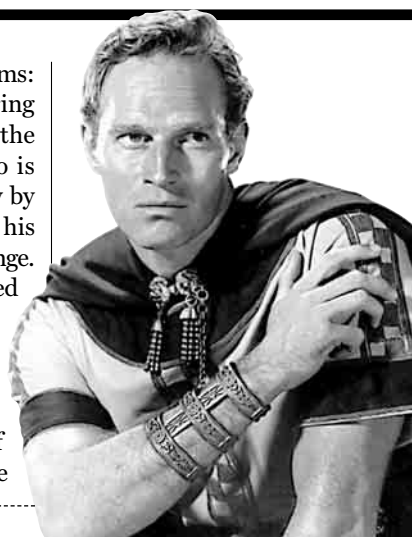
H. Billington made the selections after evaluating nearly 1,000 titles nominated by the public and consulting staff and advisers, the library said.

"The films we choose are not necessarily the 'best' American films ever made or the most famous," Billington said in a statement. Rather, they are chosen because they have "cultural, historical or aesthetic significance."

Among the better-known films: → **BEN HUR**, the 1959 epic starring Charlton Heston, which tells the story of a Jewish prince who is betrayed and sent into slavery by a Roman friend, only to regain his freedom and come back for revenge. Its centerpiece: an action-packed chariot race.

→ **DUCK AND COVER**, the 1951 landmark civil defense film seen by millions of schoolchildren in the 1950s. In the case of an atomic attack, children were

ARCHIVED: Heston in "Ben Hur."



CBS

advised to duck beneath a table or desk and cover their heads.

→ **JAILHOUSE ROCK**, which showcased Elvis Presley in ultimate rebel mode. The edginess in this 1957 film was toned down in later Presley pictures.

→ **ENTER THE DRAGON**, 1973, a U.S.-Hong Kong co-production that was the last film completed by Bruce Lee and is considered one of the most influential martial arts films ever made.

→ **THE NUTTY PROFESSOR**, the 1963 film which some rank as comic Jerry Lewis' greatest. LAURA MECKLER (AP)

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THE AVIATOR (PG13) ✓ 11:25, 3:10, 7:10, 10:55
DARKNESS (PG13) ✓ 11:35, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:45
FAT ALBERT (PG) ✓ 11:15, 12:00, 1:45, 2:40, 4:30, 5:15, 7:30, 8:00, 10:20
LIFE AQUATIC (R) ✓ 11:45, 1:15, 2:30, 4:15, 5:25, 7:15, 8:15, 10:10, 10:55
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) ✓ 11:30, 1:00, 2:25, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:15, 10:00, 11:00
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) • CC ✓ 12:15, 3:00, 6:05, 9:00
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) ✓ 1:20, 4:05, 7:05, 9:40, 10:35
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) ✓ 11:20, 12:30, 2:00, 3:15, 4:45, 6:20, 7:40, 9:15, 10:30
SPANGLISH (PG13) ✓ 12:20, 1:30, 3:35, 4:40, 6:35, 7:55, 9:50
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 12:40, 3:45, 6:30, 9:45
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 1:35, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30, 10:50
CLOSER (R) 12:05, 2:45, 5:35, 8:20, 10:55
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (PG13) ✓ 1:40, 4:35, 7:20, 10:15
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 10:50 PM
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 8:05, 11:00
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) 12:10, 2:35
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 5:10, 8:10
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 11:35, 2:20, 5:20

COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8

Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

THE AVIATOR (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 4:00, 6:30, 8:15, 10:00
DARKNESS (PG13) ✓ 12:20, 3:15, 5:35, 8:00, 10:25
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 7:40, 10:15
CLOSER (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 7:30, 10:20
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) 12:50, 3:00
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15
SIDEWAYS (R) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30

POTOMAC MILLS 18

2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
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THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30
BEYOND THE SEA (PG13) 10:50, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
THE AVIATOR (PG13) ✓ 11:00, 2:45, 6:30, 10:15
DARKNESS (PG13) ✓ 11:30, 2:00, 4:45, 8:00, 10:35
FAT ALBERT (PG) ✓ 10:10, 12:30, 3:00, 5:25, 7:30, 9:50
LIFE AQUATIC (R) ✓ 11:10, 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:40
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) ✓ 10:20, 12:20, 1:00, 3:20, 4:00, 6:10, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:25
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) • CC ✓ 12:20, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00, 11:25
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 5:25, 8:05, 10:45
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) 10:00, 11:40, 12:45, 2:20, 3:40, 5:00, 6:20, 7:40, 9:10, 10:25, 11:30
SPANGLISH (PG13) 1:30, 4:30, 6:05, 7:30, 8:55, 10:20, 11:30
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 10:40, 1:50, 4:40, 8:10, 11:10
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 2:30, 5:35, 8:15, 10:55
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CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 10:30, 12:50, 3:30
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 5:40, 8:30, 11:20
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) 10:50, 1:15, 3:30
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 10:15, 12:35, 3:00
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 10:30, 1:20, 4:05, 6:40, 9:20

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Jenifer and Wisconsin
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FAT ALBERT (PG) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
SPANGLISH (PG13) 12:45, 1:30, 3:35, 4:25, 6:45, 7:25, 9:30, 10:25
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 12:00, 1:00, 2:45, 3:45, 5:30, 7:00, 8:15, 9:45, 10:55
BRIDGET JONES 2 (R) 10:00 PM
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 1:00, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 12:20, 2:35, 5:00, 7:35

ACADEMY 8

Beltway Plaza on Greenbelt Rd., Center Court
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THE AVIATOR (PG13) 12:30, 4:10, 8:10
FAT ALBERT (PG) 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 8:00, 10:20
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) 1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
SPANGLISH (PG13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 1:00, 4:30, 7:20, 10:30
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 1:30, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40

COLUMBIA MALL 14

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THE AVIATOR (PG13) ✓ 11:25, 3:00, 6:45, 10:30
FAT ALBERT (PG) ✓ 10:20, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
LIFE AQUATIC (R) ✓ 10:45, 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05
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SPANGLISH (PG13) 12:45, 4:15, 7:10, 10:10
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 10:20, 1:15, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 12:05, 2:45, 5:20, 8:10, 10:50
CLOSER (R) 10:05, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 9:55 PM
FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 5:05, 8:00, 11:00
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) 10:10, 12:20, 2:50
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 11:45, 2:10, 4:40
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 10:15, 1:00, 4:10, 7:10

COUNTRY CLUB MALL 6

Country Club Mall on Vocke Rd near Route 68.
703-998-4AMC

FAT ALBERT (PG) ✓ 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) ✓ 7:15, 9:45
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) ✓ 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05
SPANGLISH (PG13) ✓ 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 7:00, 9:55
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 12:00, 2:20, 4:45

UNION STATION 9

Located at Union Station
703-998-4AMC

THE AVIATOR (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 3:30, 7:10, 10:40
THE AVIATOR (PG13) • CC ✓ 12:00, 3:30, 7:10, 10:40
DARKNESS (PG13) ✓ 12:25, 3:00, 5:30, 8:05, 10:35
FAT ALBERT (PG) ✓ 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) ✓ 1:00, 4:15, 7:00, 10:00
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 2:00, 4:40, 7:45, 10:30
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) 12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:30, 10:10
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 1:45, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 7:20, 10:20
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 1:45, 4:30

RIVERTOWNE 12

Exit 4A I-95, 1/2 mi. on Oxon Hill Rd.
703-998-4AMC

DARKNESS (PG13) 1:10, 4:10, 5:10, 6:40, 7:40, 9:20
FAT ALBERT (PG) 2:20, 5:20, 8:00
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) 1:00, 3:50, 7:00, 9:50
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 2:00, 5:00, 7:50
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) 2:30, 5:30, 8:10
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 1:40, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 2:10, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) 2:10
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 1:50, 4:50
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
RAY (PG13) 6:50, 10:10

ACADEMY 6

Beltway Plaza on Greenbelt Rd., West Court
703-998-4AMC

DARKNESS (PG13) ✓ 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:40
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) 12:50, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (PG) 12:40, 2:50, 5:20
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) 12:20, 2:40, 5:00
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 1:00, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
RAY (PG13) 7:10, 10:20
THE GRUDGE (PG13) 7:30, 10:00

SPRINGFIELD MALL 10

Loisdale and Franconia Road
703-971-3991

THE AVIATOR (PG13) ✓ 11:40, 3:15, 6:50, 10:30
DARKNESS (PG13) ✓ 1:20, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10
FAT ALBERT (PG) ✓ 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) ✓ 1:15, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 1:00, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55
LEMONY SNICKET (PG) 1:00, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
SPANGLISH (PG13) 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 7:45, 10:20
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) • CC ✓ 5:20
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 7:00, 10:00
THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) • CC ✓ 12:30, 2:55
THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 12:50, 4:00



MAGNIFICENT MILESTONE: The musical "Chicago" is set to enter an elite club. If all remains on-schedule, the show's Jan. 6 performance, number 3,389 in its run, will earn it a spot as one of the top 10 longest-running shows on Broadway.

Entertainment

Psychic Friends

In 'Medium,' Patricia Arquette earns a living by talking to the dead

TELEVISION | In 1987's "A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors," Patricia Arquette played someone

with psychic powers. Now, she'll do it on a weekly basis.

In "Medium," which premieres Jan. 3 at 10 p.m., on NBC, Arquette plays Allison Dubois, a real-life Arizona housewife who can communicate with dead people.

Married to an aerospace engi-

neer and the mother of three, Dubois was studying law when she discovered her psychic abilities could provide research in solving murders and missing-person cases.

Arquette says she asked many questions of Dubois to try to fully grasp the mystery of her powers, learning the information "doesn't come to her in a linear fashion... you are just getting snippets of images of something in the future and something in the past."



Arquette can also see through glass.

Arquette did change one aspect of Dubois' character: "She seems very self-confident. I wanted my Allison to be a little more affected by the judgments she makes."

She reasons this will provide viewers with more insight because some people "still feel like it's evil and devil work or whatever, so you want to be as open as you can, so people can empathize with you and feel like they can come along with you on this journey." BRIDGET BYRNE (AP)

express ➔ movie showtimes

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Showtimes for: 12/29/04

MAGIC JOHNSON THEATRES
CAPITAL CENTER
800 Shopper's way, Large 301-324-4220

★ FAT ALBERT (PG) (ON 3 SCREENS) (11:00 1:30 4:00) 6:30 9:00
★ DARKNESS (PG-13) (11:10 1:40 4:10) 7:10 9:10
★ THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) (11:20 1:50 4:20)
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 8:00 10:30
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) (11:15 1:45 4:15)
RAY (PG-13) 7:15 10:45
★ LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (11:25 1:55 4:25) 7:25 9:55
★ FAT ALBERT (PG) (ON 3 SCREENS) (11:30 2:00 4:30) 7:00 9:30
★ MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) (1:35 4:35) 7:35 10:35
★ OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (12:05 3:00) 6:05 9:05
★ THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE (PG) (12:30 2:40 4:40)
BLADE: TRINITY (R) 6:40 9:40
★ THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (11:35 2:25 5:25)
★ NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 7:55 10:55
★ FAT ALBERT (PG) (ON 3 SCREENS) (12:00 2:30 5:00) 7:30 10:00
★ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (12:40 3:40) 7:40 10:40

Cineplex Odeon WISCONSIN AVE. CINEMAS
4000 Wisconsin Avenue N.W. 202-244-0882

★ LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (1:20 3:50) 6:20 9:10
★ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (1:40 4:20) 7:00 9:40
★ THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU (R) (1:40 4:00) 6:50 9:25
★ THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13) (2:00 5:10) 8:20
★ MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) (1:00 3:40) 6:30 9:20
CLOSER (R) (1:30 4:00) 6:40 9:30

Loews WHITE FLINT 5
North Bethesda 310-423-1014

★ LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (1:30 4:05) 6:55 9:25
★ SPANGLISH (PG-13) (1:05 3:50) 6:40 9:30
★ THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU (R) (1:20 4:00) 6:45 9:35
★ OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (3:45) 6:30 9:15
★ A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT (R) (1:00 3:55) 6:50 9:45
★ THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) (1:10)

Cineplex Odeon SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph 703-671-0978

SIDEWAYS (R) (1:20 4:10) 7:00 9:50
★ THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13) (12:50 4:00) 6:50 9:40
CLOSER (R) (1:10 4:30) 7:10 9:30
★ THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU (R) (12:40 3:30) 6:30 9:20
★ HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (PG-13) (1:30 4:20) 7:20 10:00
★ THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (1:00 4:00) 8:00
★ A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT (R) (12:30 3:10) 6:10 9:10

Loews WHEATON PLAZA 11
Wheaton Plaza Shopping Center,
Viers Mill Rd. Btwn. Georgia & University 901-949-9202

OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (11:00 2:00 4:40) 7:40 10:20
★ THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (11:20 2:50) 6:10 9:30
BLADE: TRINITY (R) (5:30) 8:00 10:30
★ THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE (PG) (12:20 3:00)
★ THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) (1:00)
CLOSER (R) (3:30) 6:40 9:20
★ DARKNESS (PG-13) (12:10 2:30 4:50) 7:10 9:40
★ SPANGLISH (PG-13) (12:00 3:10) 6:20 9:10
★ FAT ALBERT (PG) (11:30 1:50 4:00) 6:30 9:00
★ NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 6:50 10:10
★ THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (12:30 3:20)
★ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (11:40 2:10 4:30) 7:00 9:45
★ MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) (11:50 2:20 5:00) 7:30 10:00
★ LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (11:10 1:40 4:20) 7:20 9:50

CINEPLEX ODEON CINEMA
5100 Wisconsin Avenue 202-966-7248

★ A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT (R) (1:45 4:45) 8:00

Cineplex Odeon TYSONS FARIFAX SQUARE
8065 Leesburgh Pike 703-506-9857

★ THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (11:30 3:00) 6:30 10:00
★ MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) (11:50 2:50) 6:40 9:30
★ LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (11:40 2:10) 6:20 9:00
★ SPANGLISH (PG-13) (12:20 3:10) 6:50 9:40
★ THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU (R) (12:10 3:20) 7:00 9:50
★ OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (11:45 2:40) 6:45 9:20
★ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (12:30 3:30) 7:10 9:45
CLOSER (R) (2:20 4:30) 7:20 9:55
★ THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (12:00)

Cineplex Odeon DUPONT CIRCLE 5
1350 19th Street 202-972-9956

WHAT THE BLEEP! DO WE KNOW? (NR) (1:40 4:20) 7:10 9:50
★ THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES (R) (1:00 3:50) 6:50 9:45
RAY (PG-13) (2:00 5:30) 8:50
KINSEY (R) (ON 2 SCREENS) (1:20 4:10) 7:00 9:40
FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) (1:10 3:40) 6:30 9:20

Loews GEORGETOWN
3111 K Street, N.W. 202-342-6033

ESCAPE HOLLYWOOD TO CLASSIC THURSDAY AT 7PM

★ THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (11:00 2:30) 6:00 9:30
★ THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU (R) (12:10 2:50 5:30) 8:10 10:50
★ MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) (12:40 3:20 4:50) 6:10 7:30 8:50 10:10
★ THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13) (12:20 3:30 5:20) 6:40 8:30 9:50
★ SPANGLISH (PG-13) (1:00 3:50) 6:50 9:40
★ HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (PG-13) (1:20 4:00) 7:10 9:50
★ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (12:00 3:10) 6:20 9:10
★ LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) (11:40 2:20 5:00) 7:40 10:20
★ OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (1:30 4:20) 7:10 10:00
CLOSER (R) (12:30 3:00 5:40) 8:20 10:40
SIDEWAYS (R) (11:10 1:50) 10:30
BLADE: TRINITY (R) (5:10) 11:00
★ NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) (1:40) 8:00
★ THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (11:20 2:00)
★ THE POLAR EXPRESS (G) (11:30 2:10)

Cineplex Odeon UPTOWN
3426 Connecticut Avenue 202-966-8805

★ THE AVIATOR (PG-13) (11:00 2:40) 6:30 10:10

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**Weekend Pass.
Thursdays.**

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GALLERY PLACE STADIUM 14
701 Seventh St NW 800-FANDANGO 1721#

FAT ALBERT (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1205 220 440) 700 920
THE AVIATOR (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1200 1230 400 430) 800 830
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) DIG ★ (Stadium) (1100 1150 145 235 425 515) 710 755 950 1035
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1215 100 320 405) 640 720 945 1025
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1130 205 445) 725 1000
★ LEMONY SNICKET'S SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1105 135 415) 650 925
SPANGLISH (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1245 350) 645 940
BLADE: TRINITY (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (Stadium) (1135 210 445) 730 1010
CLOSER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (Stadium) (1120 150 425) 705 955
FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1110 140 410) 655 930
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) DIG (Stadium) 715 1005
★ THE INCREDIBLES (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1115 155 435)

BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12
Ballston Common Mall, Glebe Rd. Arlington (703) 527-9466 800-FANDANGO 377#

BEYOND THE SEA (PG-13) DIG (1040 125 440) 740 1030
FAT ALBERT (PG) DIG (1205 230 455) 720 1025
LIFE AQUATIC (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1035 130 435) 730 1025
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) DIG ★ (1110 1200 145 235 420 510) 710 800 945 1035
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13) DIG (1155 105 310 415) 700 720 1005 1020
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (PG-13) DIG (1045 140 430) 715 955
★ LEMONY SNICKET'S SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) DIG (1135 215 450) 735 1010
SPANGLISH (PG-13) DIG (1030 135 425) 725 1015
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) DIG (100 400) 705 1000
FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) DIG (1050 120 410) 650 940
★ THE INCREDIBLES (PG) DIG (1025)

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#

DARKNESS (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1150 230 510) 735 1025
FAT ALBERT (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1125 140 410) 710 930
MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) DIG ★ (Stadium) (1120 1210 100 220 300 400 500) 630 750 920 1000 1030
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1110 200 440) 725 1010
★ LEMONY SNICKET'S SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1105 1240 150 350 420 525) 720 930 1005
SPANGLISH (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1215 330 640 740 950 1035)
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) DIG (Stadium) (1200 310 650 705 940 1015)
BLADE: TRINITY (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (Stadium) (1210 210 450) 730 1020
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1135 155 420)
FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1140 215 445) 715 955
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1220 325) 620 910
POLAR EXPRESS (G) DIG (Stadium) (1115 205 435)
★ THE INCREDIBLES (PG) DIG (Stadium) (1205 320) 635 925

BETHESDA 10
7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 569#

MEET THE FOCKERS (PG-13) ★ (130 400 440) 710 740 950 1020
THE AVIATOR (PG-13) ★ (100 430) 800
FAT ALBERT (PG) ★ (1210 230 445) 700 930
FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) (1210 235 500) 750 1015
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (PG-13) (1240 340) 650 940
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) (1250 350) 740 1030
★ LEMONY SNICKET'S SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG) ★ (1150 220 450) 720 950
SPANGLISH (PG-13) (110 410) 705 1000
OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13) (125 420) 725 1010
★ THE INCREDIBLES (PG) (120)

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Television



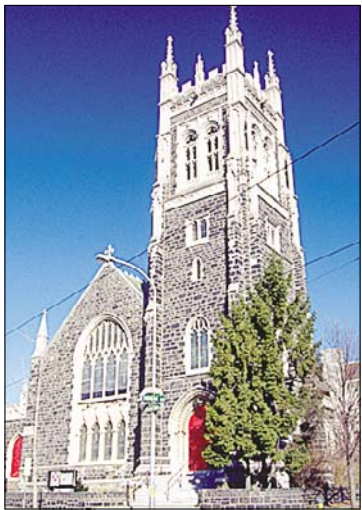
WHICH ONE IS HE? Adam Baldwin, who surprisingly isn't related to Alec and his brood, is the latest addition to Fox's new intel drama, "The Inside," according to The Hollywood Reporter. Baldwin plays a seasoned, no-nonsense FBI agent.

Views From the Pews

Filmmakers watch as a church grapples with social change

TELEVISION | The 90-minute documentary "The Congregation" (9:30 p.m., PBS) focuses on the story of a single church to examine the social changes that are challenging centuries of tradition in the Methodist Church and other denominations.

Academy Award-winning filmmakers Alan and Susan Raymond spent more than two years with a progressive United Methodist congregation in a Philadelphia suburb. After their minister of



The film follows turmoil at a Methodist church in a Philadelphia neighborhood.

37 years resigned, members were divided in their reaction to a new minister with a decidedly conservative approach to worship and social activism. As church attendance falls and the collection plate yields lower revenues, the church faces a crisis. Then the associate pastor announces that she is a practicing homosexual, an admission that may deprive her of her ministerial credentials. While her progressive congregation rallies around her, she faces a church trial.

The Raymonds' other films include the groundbreaking 1973 series "An American Family," which many consider the granddaddy of all reality TV shows. Their film "I Am a Promise: The Children of Stanton Elementary School" received an Oscar for best documentary in 1994. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

ON TV TONIGHT

A COMMERCIAL VENTURE
TBS invites viewers to sample **THE FUNNIEST COMMERCIALS OF THE YEAR: 2004** (9 p.m., TBS). Kevin Nealon, formerly of "Saturday Night Live," hosts this one-hour roundup of 30-second spots from the United States and abroad. More than 50 commercials will be featured, including 10 chosen by viewers.

THE SHORT LIST
Comedy Central offers a look back at the entire season of "South Park" on **SOUTH PARK NEW SEASON REWIND** (9:30 p.m., Comedy Central). It's easy to rewind when your season is only seven episodes long.

A CLASSIC CAPER
Steve McQueen and Faye Dunaway share screen chemistry in the stylish 1968 heist



Comedy Central offers a look back at the "South Park" season that was.

drama **THE THOMAS CROWN AFFAIR** (11 p.m., Turner Classic Movies).

CULT CHOICE
If Blofeld held a Luger to my forehead and forced me to choose my favorite James Bond song, I'd have to pick the theme of 1967's **YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE** (6 p.m., Spike), warbled by Nancy Sinatra. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

12.29.04	6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC [4] News [CC]		NBC Nightly News	Access Hollywood	Law & Order: Criminal Intent [CC]		The West Wing "Full Disclosure" [R]		Law & Order "Veteran's Day" [CC]		News [CC]	The Tonight Show
	WTTG [5] The Simpsons [R]	The Simpsons [R]	Friends [R]	Seinfeld [R]	That '70s Show	Quintuplets (N) [R]	Nanny 911 "Rock Family" [R]		News		Friends [R]	Drew Carey
	WJLA [7] News [CC]	ABC Wld News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Lost "The Moth" [R]		Lost "Confidence Man" [R]		Wife Swap "Donahoe/Baker" [CC]		News [CC]	(:35) Nightline
	WUSA [9] News [CC]	CBS News	USA Tonight	Ent. Tonight	60 Minutes (N) [R]		King of Queens	Center-Univ	CSI: NY "Grand Master" [R]		News [CC]	(:35) Late Show
	WDCA [20] Girlfriends [CC]	Girlfriends [CC]	Malcolm-Mid.	Malcolm-Mid.	2004 Vibe Awards Honoring achievement in urban music. [R]				That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Every-Raymond	Dharma & Greg
	WMPT [22] The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Business Rpt.	Business Rpt.	Artworks-Week	Live From Lincoln Center Flutist James Galway performs.		The Congregation (N) [R]					Independent Lens
	WETA [26] BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Live From Lincoln Center Flutist James Galway performs.	The Congregation (N) [R]							Charlie Rose (N)
	WHUT [32] At Howard		BBC World News	MoneyWise [CC]	American Family: Journey of Dreams	Soundstage [R]		BBC World News	Tavis Smiley [R]	Charlie Rose Joseph Ellis. (N) [CC]		
	WBDC [50] The Parkers [R]	Steve Harvey	The Parkers [R]	Steve Harvey	Smallville "Perry" [R]		Big Man on Campus (N) [R]		Will & Grace [R]	Just Shoot Me [R]	Will & Grace [R]	Blind Date [CC]
BASIC CABLE	A&E	City Confidential [CC]	American Justice "Cop Killers" [CC]	American Justice "The Perfect Wife"	Road Warriors: Biker Brother.		Biography "Dr. Robert Atkins" (N)		Crossing Jordan "Pandora's Trunk"			
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter [CC]	The Most Extreme "Survivors" [CC]	Animal Face-Off "Lion vs. Tiger"	The Jeff Corwin Experience		Miami Animal Police [CC]		Animal Face-Off "Lion vs. Tiger"			
	BET	Coming to the Stage	Coming to the Stage	Coming to the Stage	Coming to the Stage		Coming to the Stage		BET Nightly News [Music Special			
	Bravo	Showbiz Moms & Dads [CC]	The West Wing "Debate Camp" [R]	Inside the Actors Studio "Tom Cruise" Tom Cruise. [CC]			Project Runway [CC]		The West Wing "Debate Camp" [R]			
	Comedy	(5:00) "I'm Gonna Git You Sucka"	*** "Dogma" (1999) Ben Affleck. Two fallen angels plan to re-enter heaven and end existence.		South Park [CC]		South Park [CC]	South Park [CC]	South Park [CC]	South Park [CC]	South Park [CC]	South Park [CC]
	Court	NYPD Blue [R]	Cops [R]	Cops [R]	The Investigators	Forensic Files (N)	Psychic Detect		The Investigators		Caught	Masterminds
	Discovery	MythBusters [CC]	American Chopper "Jet Bike" [CC]	Motorcycle Mavericks [CC]	MythBusters "Penny Drop" [CC]		Shark Battlefield [CC]		Motorcycle Mavericks [CC]			
	DISCH	Chicago Hope "Playing Through" [R]	Trauma: Life in the ER [CC]	A New Face [CC]	Plastic Surgery: Before and After		Plastic Surgery: New York Style		A New Face [CC]			
	Disney	Lizzie McGuire	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister [R]	That's So Raven	*** "Cadet Kelly" (2002) Hilary Duff, Christy Carlson Romano. [CC]	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister [R]	Even Stevens	Boy Meets World		
	E!	Bad Girls of Reality TV: True Story	E! News (N)	Life Is Great	Anna Nicole Smith: The E! True Hollywood Story [R]		Jackie Collins Presents		Howard Stern	Howard Stern		
	FX	Fear Factor [R]	King of the Hill [R]	King of the Hill [R]	*** "America's Sweethearts" (2001, Comedy) Julia Roberts, Billy Crystal, Catherine Zeta-Jones.		Fear Factor [R]		King of the Hill [R]			
	HGTV	Wknd Warriors	Landscapers	Curb Appeal	Renovation [CC]	Bldg. Character	Sensible Chic	Mission: Orgnz	Curb Appeal	Painted House [R]	Painted House [R]	
	Family	7th Heaven [R]	Smallville "Calling" [CC]	Smallville "Calling" [CC]	*** "National Lampoon's European Vacation" (1985) Chevy Chase.		Whose Line?	Whose Line?	The 700 Club [CC]			
	History	History-Points	History-Points	Modern Marvels Shooting skills.	UFO Files "UFOs in the Bible" [CC]		Bible Code: Predicting Armageddon	Bible Code II: Apocalypse	Hooked: Illegal Drugs			
	Lifetime	(5:00) "Stolen From the Heart" (2000)	*** "A Crime of Passion" (1999) Tracey Gold, Powers Boothe. [CC] (DVS)		*** "Don't Look Down" (1998, Suspense) Megan Ward, Billy Burke. [CC]		The Nanny [CC]	The Golden Girls				
	MTV	R. Wld Chal.	R. Wld Chal.	Pimp My Ride [R]	Pimp My Ride [R]	Pimp My Ride [R]	Pimp My Ride [R]	Pimp My Ride [R]	Pimp My Ride [R]	Pimp My Ride [R]	Pimp My Ride [R]	Pimp My Ride [R]
	NICK	Hey Arnold! [CC]	SpongeBob	Rugrats [R]		SpongeBob	Full House [CC]	Full House [CC]	Fresh Prince	The Cosby Show	Roseanne [CC]	Roseanne [CC]
	SCI FI	Stargate SG-1 "Threshold" [R]	Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction? [CC]	Proof Positive: Paranormal	Ghost Hunters [R]		Scare Tactics [R]	Scare Tactics [R]	Proof Positive: Paranormal			
	SPIKE	*** "You Only Live Twice" (1967) Sean Connery. James Bond pursues missing space capsules. [R]			*** "The World Is Not Enough" (1999, Action) Pierce Brosnan, Sophie Marceau, Robert Carlyle. [R]		Funniest Commercials-Year	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	(:10) *** "Showgirls" (1995, Drama)		
	TBS	Seinfeld [R]	Seinfeld [R]	Every-Raymond	Friends [R]	Friends [R]		Extreme Surgery [CC]		Storm Force "Tornado Alley" [CC]		
	TLC	Clean Sweep	In a Fix Newlyweds' house is a mess.	Storm Force "Tornado Alley" [CC]	In a Fix "The Big One" (N)		Law & Order "Amends" [R]	*** "Road House" (1989, Drama) Patrick Swayze, Kelly Lynch. [CC]		Law & Order: Criminal Intent [CC]		
	TNT	Charmed "Hell Hath No Fury" [CC]	Law & Order [R]	Law & Order "Sheltered" [R]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [R]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [R]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [R]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [R]	Law & Order: Criminal Intent [CC]			
	USA	*** "Loser" (2000, Comedy-Drama) Jason Biggs, Mena Suvari. [CC]			100 Most Metal Moments 60-41. [R]							
	VHI	100 Most Metal Moments 100-81. [R]										
SPAN	TELEM	Corte-Pueblo	Noti-Telemndo	Anita No Te Rajes	La Mujer en el Espejo		Gitanas		Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer		Noticiero Tel.	Laura
	UNIV	Viviana	Noticiero Univ	La Mujer de Madera	Rubi		Amor Real		Don Francisco Presenta		Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.
SPORTS	ESPN	(4:30) College Football EV1.Net Houston Bowl -- Colorado vs. Texas-El Paso.		College Football MasterCard Alamo Bowl -- Ohio State vs. Oklahoma State. From San Antonio. (Live) [CC]								SportsCenter
	ESPN2	SportsCenter (Live) [CC]	NFL Live [CC]	College Basketball Alabama at Wisconsin. (Live) [CC]			Junior Hockey IIHF World Championship -- Belarus vs. United States. From Grand Forks, N.D.					
	CSN	I, Max (N)	SportsNite [CC]	NBA Basketball Detroit Pistons at Washington Wizards. From MCI Center in Washington, D.C.			Wizards Post.	SportsNite (Live) [CC]			Ship Shape TV [R]	Best-Sports
NEWS	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight [CC]	Anderson Cooper 360 [CC]	Paula Zahn Now [CC]	Larry King Live [CC]		NewsNight With Aaron Brown [CC]		Lou Dobbs Tonight			
	FNC	Special Report (Live) [CC]	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Factor (Live) [CC]	Hannity & Colmes (Live) [CC]		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor			
	MSNBC	The Abrams Report (Live)	Hardball (Live) [CC]	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Scarborough Country (Live)		Hardball [CC]			
MOVIES	AMC	(5:45) *** "Jaws the Revenge" (1987) Lorraine Gary.	(:45) *** "Major League" (1989, Comedy) Tom Berenger, Charlie Sheen. Premiere. 'R'				FilmFakers "The Committed" [CC]		*** "Major League" (1989) 'R'			
	TCM	*** "The Lady Vanishes" (1938, Mystery) Margaret Lockwood. 'NR'	*** "Kansas City Confidential" (1952, Drama) John Payne. 'NR' [CC]				*** "The Thomas Crown Affair" (1968) Steve McQueen. 'R' [CC]					
	HBO	*** "Chasing Liberty" (2004) Mandy Moore, Jeremy Piven. [R] 'PG-13' [CC]	The Sopranos "Cold Cuts" [R]	The Sopranos "The Test Dream" [R]			Inside the NFL (N) [R]		Carnivale [R]			
	MAX	*** "Sniper 2" (2002, Action) Tom Berenger. [R] 'R'	*** "Bad Boys II" (2003) Martin Lawrence. Two detectives battle a drug kingpin in Miami. [R] 'R'				*** "You Got Served" (2004) Marques Houston. 'PG-13'		Erotic Confessn			
	SHOW	Carry Me Home (:45) *** "The Four Feathers" (2002, Adventure) Heath Ledger. iTV. [R] 'PG-13' [CC]		HUFF "Cold Day in Shanghai" (iTV)			*** "The School of Rock" (2003) Jack Black. iTV. [R] 'PG-13' [CC]					
	TMC	*** "Blown Away" (1994, Suspense) Jeff Bridges, Tommy Lee Jones. [R] 'R'	*** "Glory" (1989, Drama) Matthew Broderick. [R] 'R'				(:05) *** "Miami Blues" (1990) Alec Baldwin. 'R' [CC]		The Golden Child			
	STARZ!	(5:05) *** "The Next Karate Kid" [R]	(:05) *** "The Hot Chick" (2002, Comedy) Rob Schneider. [R] 'PG-13' [CC]				*** "Bad Santa" (2003) Billy Bob Thornton. 'R' [CC]					
ENCORE		(5:45) *** "Thelma & Louise" (1991, Drama) Susan Sarandon. [R] 'R'	*** "Daddy Day Care" (2003) Eddie Murphy. 'PG' [CC]				(:35) *** "Billy Bathgate" (1991, Drama) Dustin Hoffman. [R] 'R'		Starship Troop			

KNOT THE TIE: According to the 2005 Fashion Futures survey, up-and-coming trends in menswear include the neo-



preppy look, velvet, clingy shirts, and neckwear, not just neckties — look for scarves, bandanas and bow ties.

Home & Shopping

Always a Brand-New Bag

Fickle fashionistas can rent, then return the very latest purses

FASHION | Handbag enthusiasts disappointed that Santa didn't drop off the latest Fendi baguette or Prada backpack this holiday season have another option: Bag, Borrow or Steal (bagborroworsteal.com).

The site offers access to more chic handbags than an army of fashionistas could sport in a single season. Customers can swap bags as often as they like, all for a monthly membership fee, much like Netflix does with DVDs.

Co-founder Lloyd Lapidus said the concept came from watching "bag-aholic" family members.



Prada's calfskin leather tote bag is available to "Diva" subscribers.



"Trendsetter" members can rent Baby Phat's Signature mini hobo handbag.



"Princess" subscribers have access to Lulu Guinness bags like this one.

"They're always lending out or borrowing purses, whether it's a special occasion or a night on the

town," he said.

From Baby Phat and Burberry to Nicky Hilton and Yves Saint

Laurent, Bag, Borrow or Steal boasts hundreds of handbags to rent at three monthly member-

ship levels, plus \$9.95 per bag to cover shipping and handling.

There's "Trendsetter," offering the latest from "new, emerging designers," for \$19.95; "Princess," providing well-known designer bags, for \$49.95; and "Diva," giving customers their pick of the priciest, top designer bags, for \$99.95.

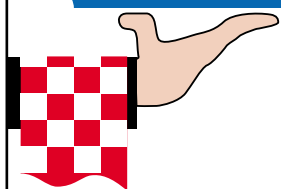
Customers can send a "steal-it" request and purchase the must-have bag at a fraction of the cost, depending on its age and wear. (The company reserves the right to charge customers for bags that have been stained or damaged.)

While most customers come from major urban centers, a growing number hail from rural areas. "They might not have a Madison Avenue or Bal Harbour address," Lapidus said.

Absent from the site, however, are bags costing firmly in the four figures — ultra-luxury brands such as Judith Lieber and Louis Vuitton.

BRUNO J. NAVARRO (AP)

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Science

NASA researchers salivate over plan to blast a hole in a comet

The boys at NASA can hardly wait. July Fourth, they get to bust up a comet, Hollywood-style.

"Blow things up? I'm there. Yeah, I don't have any issue with that," said Richard Grammier, manager of the project for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He used to work with explosives in the military.

The spacecraft is called Deep Impact, like the 1998 movie about a comet headed for Earth. NASA will blast a crater into Comet Tempel 1 and analyze the stuff hurled out.

Planners said the energy produced will be like 4.5 tons of TNT going off — producing fireworks for observatories.

"We're going to create our own crater," said Donald Yeomans, a scientist at JPL in California — and an adviser on the movie. "We'll understand how the comet is put together,

Collision Course

"Blow things up? I'm there. Yeah, I don't have any issue with that."

RICHARD GRAMMIER
MANAGER OF THE DEEP IMPACT PROJECT

its density, its porosity, whether it has a surface crust and underlying ices, whether it's layered ice, whether it's a wimpy comet or whether it's a rock-hard ice ball."

This is one spacecraft NASA wants to smash and trash.

"It would be like it's standing in the middle of the road and this huge semi coming down at it at

23,000 mph, you know, just bam!" Grammier said.

Deep Impact will be the first spacecraft to touch a comet. It will travel 268 million miles to intersect Comet Tempel 1 beyond Mars, more than 80 million miles from Earth.

Liftoff is targeted for Jan. 12. After Jan. 28, Tempel 1 will be beyond reach.

The European Space Agency's Rosetta spacecraft will attempt to land on a comet in 2014. Deep Impact will provide "instant gratification," said Grammier.

Fans of the film — the movie and

COSMIC, MAN: Rick Grammier promises "instant gratification" with the impact.



MAKE AN IMPACT: The spacecraft's suicide mission will reveal the comet's content.

spacecraft people hit on the same name independent of each other, about the same time — can rest easy. NASA guarantees that Deep Impact will not put the comet on a collision course with Earth. Some scientists contend the comet will shatter.

Scientists will learn about

deflecting a comet if one ever happens Earth's way. Comets have hit Earth before.

By knowing what's inside comets, NASA would use them as watering holes and fueling stations. Robots or astronauts could break the comet's water down for fuel. **MARCIA DUNN (AP)**

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Music

Colorful Sound

TIM DELAUGHTER, singer/founder of The Polyphonic Spree, a 25-piece orchestral pop band, was online Wednesday, Aug. 11 | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

I have seen you three times and it seems it would be difficult to replicate the live sound on the record. With 25 people in the band, how do you go about recording?

We all get into the studio together as one band and we play together at first to get the vibe and feeling right. We then put down the drums, bass and piano and gradually bring in other groups separately. We build on it, but initially the whole band is in the recording studio.

About the robes — do the colors symbolize anything?

The robes just symbolize that we are a colorful band and are unified by all these colors.

I'm curious how such an unconventional band developed its following without much radio play (at least around here). Word-of-mouth? Lots of touring? I must admit I first heard of the Spree from the iPod commercial and the guest spot on "Scrubs."

It has all been word and mouth — living and breathing human beings talking about their experience either listening to the record

or seeing us live or drinking the Kool-Aid.

As insulting as it may be, I have never heard of this band before today. If you could pick any one song, which would you recommend? "Section 10" on "The Beginning Stages Of..."

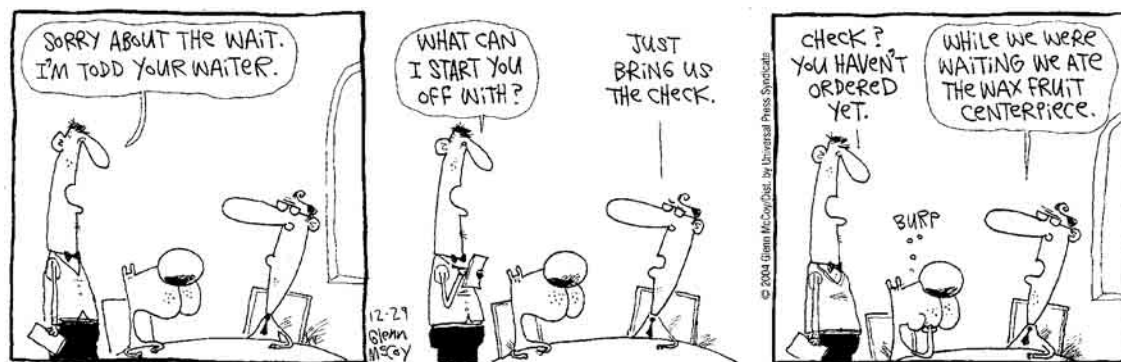
Why the ridiculously monotonous drone at the end of "The Beginning Stages of..."? Love the album, hate the drone.

I just wanted to fill the space of that CD. I thought, "You know, we are in there, we are in the studio, let's fill up the CD." That wasn't intended to be an album, it was just for us to get shows. My wife came up with using four octaves of my voice that were sampled 11 years ago. I actually fell asleep when I did it. I have only heard it all the way through once. There are some people who only like that part of the record, if you can believe it.

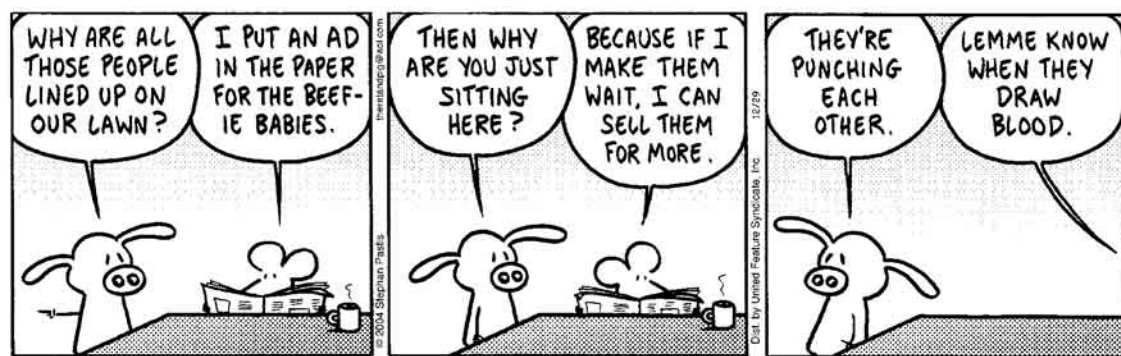
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NOTE: Washingtonpost.com's live chats will resume Monday, Jan. 3, 2005.

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



Letters

Assault on the Truth?

THE RECENT ARTICLES about the Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud's defrocking in Philadelphia over her homosexuality, as reported in Tuesday's Express, sends me the

same message as the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy: it is better to lie than to be honest. Is that the message that the United Methodist Church wishes to send our children? Is that the church's interpretation of Christ's message? It certainly isn't mine. Perhaps the United Methodist Church hierarchy ought to read Christ's words on the

subject matter.

—KEVIN ROST
Washington, D.C.

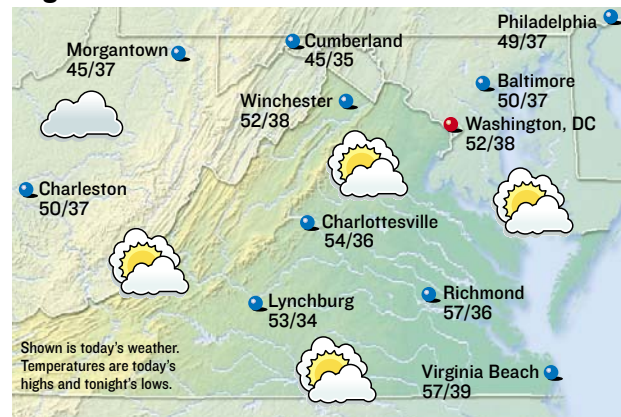


SPEAK UP: Do you have something to say about events in the news or a story in today's newspaper? Opinions on the national political scene, hostilities in Iraq or other world events? Drop us a line at inbox@readexpress.com.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly sunny, becoming milder 52°	Some fog possible late 38°	Partly sunny, mild 52° / 42°	Breezy, warmer, perhaps a shower 62° / 44°	Becoming partly sunny, warm 65° / 44°	Mostly cloudy, perhaps some rain 58° / 42°

Regional Weather



Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Tues.

Temperature

High	35°
Low	20°
Normal high	44°
Normal low	29°
Average humidity	45%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	3.05"
Normal month to date	2.75"
Year to date	42.49"
Last year to date	60.81"
Normal year to date	39.16"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see:
washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

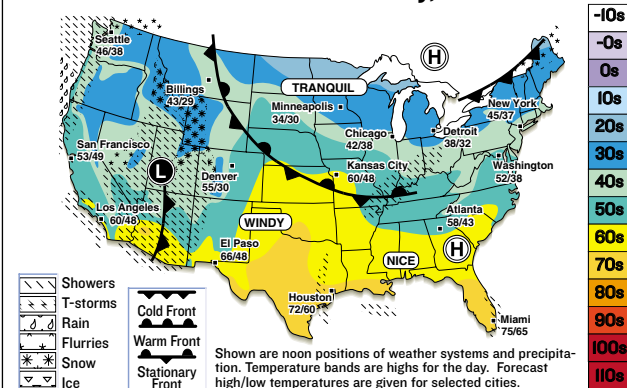
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, a milder afternoon. High 52. Wind west 8-14 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy, a chance of patchy fog late. Low 38.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:26 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:55 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:40 p.m.
Moonset today	9:50 a.m.



National Weather for Wednesday, December 29



National Cities

City	Today	Thur.
Atlanta	58/43/pc	62/47/pc
Boston	41/30/sf	39/35/c
Chicago	42/38/c	54/42/r
Dallas	68/60/c	72/54/t
Denver	55/30/pc	51/24/pc
Honolulu	80/69/sh	81/73/r
Los Angeles	60/48/r	62/50/r
Miami	75/65/sh	77/67/sh
New York City	45/37/c	45/40/c
Orlando	72/55/pc	75/58/pc
Seattle	46/38/sh	46/38/sh

World Cities

City	Today	Thur.
Amsterdam	42/37/c	49/42/r
Athens	53/42/r	51/42/r
Berlin	32/29/sn	37/37/sh
Buenos Aires	81/66/t	88/64/s
Calgary	27/0/c	13/-7/sn
Dublin	53/46/sh	55/45/r
Geneva	32/25/sn	36/35/pc
Moscow	27/15/c	21/13/pc
Rome	46/35/r	47/35/s
Sydney	72/59/pc	73/59/pc
Tokyo	41/33/sn	41/32/pc

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

LOOK* out

People

REVELATIONS

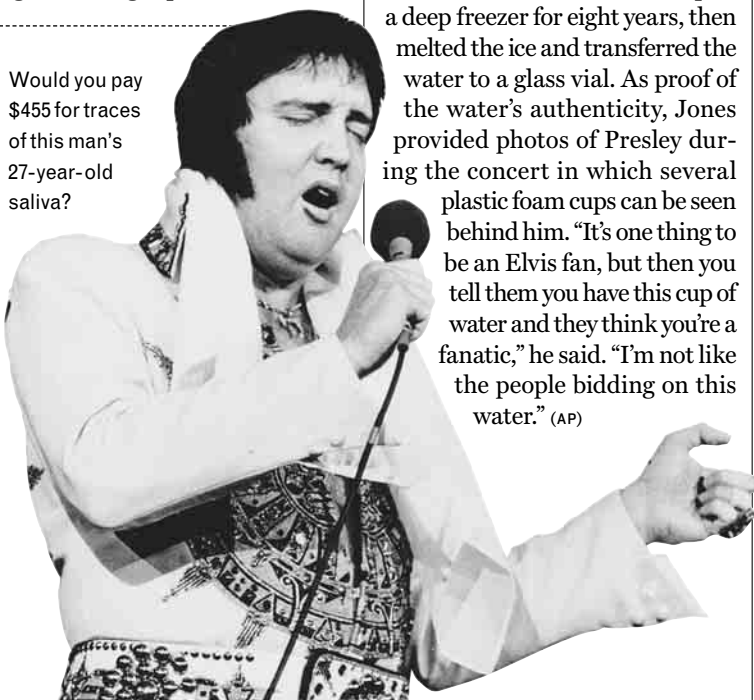
'I'm a Brand, Not an Actress,' Ashley Realizes With Horror

ASHLEY OLSEN (the non-anorexic one) is taking acting lessons, *Star* magazine reported. The tabloid said the 18-year-old New York University freshman is attending a drama class two days a week at the William Esper



Studio in New York. Meanwhile, *InTouch Weekly* reported that Mary-Kate, accompanied by her bodyguard and eating coach, is looking for apartments without Ashley. Is an artistic schism driving the siblings apart? (EXPRESS)

Would you pay \$455 for traces of this man's 27-year-old saliva?



UNWISE TAUNTING

Entertainer Is Begging For Chandelier to Crush Him

ERIC IDLE, the Monty Python member who wrote the lyrics for the Broadway-bound musical "Spamalot," dissed "The Phantom of the Opera" in a recent AP interview. "Spamalot" — a stage version of the 1975 classic "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" that's now previewing in Chicago — is upbeat, he said,

which is what a musical should be. "To me, the musical is best when it's a musical comedy," he said. "All the



years when Andrew Lloyd Webber, people with plates over their faces moaning and groaning and singing, was for me dead loss. I hated all that stuff," he said. No one bothered to reach Webber for comment. (EXPRESS)

NO WAY!!!!

Wacky Celebrity Junk Sells for Big Bucks on eBay!

Three tablespoons of water, from a cup **ELVIS PRESLEY** allegedly used during a 1977 concert, sold on eBay Saturday for \$455. Wade Jones of Belmont, N.C., sold the water, which he acquired at age 13 after a concert in Charlotte. He stored the cup in a deep freezer for eight years, then melted the ice and transferred the water to a glass vial. As proof of the water's authenticity, Jones provided photos of Presley during the concert in which several plastic foam cups can be seen behind him. "It's one thing to be an Elvis fan, but then you tell them you have this cup of water and they think you're a fanatic," he said. "I'm not like the people bidding on this water." (AP)



Liza's luck remains not only bad, but highly embarrassing, as the year ends.

TUMBLES

Bed Sues Minnelli for Falling Out of It; She Countersues

LIZA MINNELLI was hospitalized early Monday after falling out of bed, police said. Minnelli was taken to a Manhattan hospital, according to a police department spokesman. Minnelli has had a recent rash of legal difficulties. In November, she was sued by her former bodyguard, who accused her of assault and battery and claimed she made him have sex with her to keep his job. Her estranged husband, David Gest, has filed a \$10 million lawsuit alleging that she beat him. Minnelli has countersued both men. (AP)



DISASTERS

Model and Actor Hurt in Tsunami

Czech supermodel **PETRA NEMCOVA**, who appeared on the cover of 2003 *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue, was injured and her boyfriend, photographer Simon Atlee, is missing after the pair were caught in the Asian tsunami disaster while vacationing in Phuket, Thailand. The *Sun* newspaper reported that Nemcova clung to a tree for eight hours and that she suffered a shattered hip and internal injuries. Actor **JET LI** injured his foot as he protected his daughter from the waves that flooded his hotel in the Maldives, Hong Kong newspapers reported. (AP)



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1845

On Dec. 29, Texas was admitted as the 28th state; also, in 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as some 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

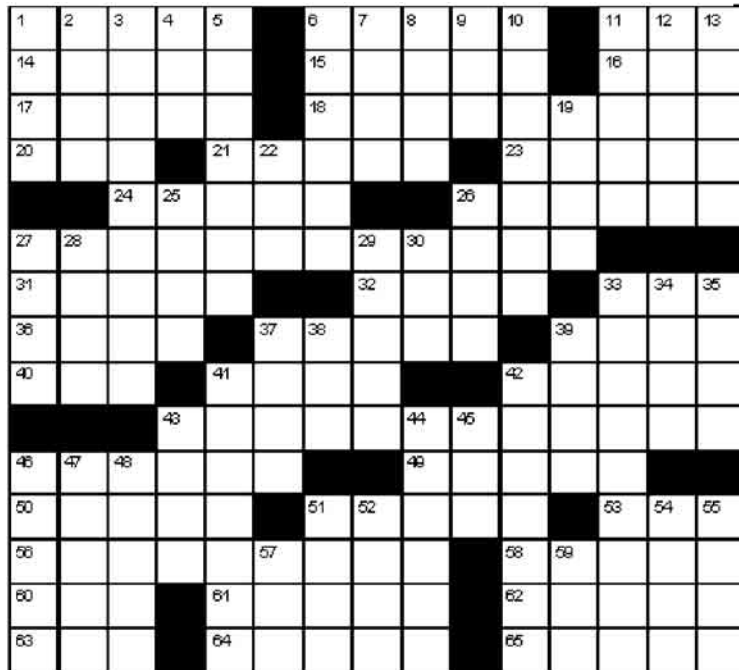
Rabbit's Foot | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Wrench type
6 Less restrictive
11 Andean tuber
14 Tropical fruit
15 Evangelist
McPherson
16 Female swan
17 Wabbit chaser
18 Bad luck
bringer?
20 Dine at nine
21 Critic, for one
23 Rich kid in
"Nancy"
24 Hub for Bulls
26 162 major
league baseball
games
27 Good luck
bringer?
31 Grammar class
subject
32 Search for
truffles
33 Mushroom part
36 Harbor a
fugitive
37 "Candle in the
Wind" subject
39 Auto racer
Yarborough
40 Hospital unit
41 Pub order
42 Avant-____
43 Bad luck
bringer?
46 Choice
49 Like an eager
date, say
50 Strikers' rhyme
51 Emulated a rook
53 Faithful or
reliable word

DOWN

- 1 Subjects of white
lies, sometimes
2 Doozy
3 Satirized
4 Holiday cusp
5 Tell the story
6 Secure
7 It may precede
old age
8 Arab potentate
9 Sinuous sea
creature
10 Opposite of
charge
11 Iridescent
gemstones
12 Casals'
instrument
13 Russian pianist
Rubinstein
19 Head
for the stratosphere
22 Christina's
daddy
25 Multitude
26 Walkway for
Socrates
27 Pierce
28 Wife of
Hercules



- 29 Shave cheese
30 Trinity member
33 Like a one in
addition, often
34 Ray of filmdom
35 Jury box
member
37 "Runaround
Sue" singer
38 Publicist's
quest
39 Lewis or Reiner
41 Object formally
42 Building
supports
43 Storage
receptacles
44 Most recent
45 Astronaut
Jemison
46 Earthy pigment
47 Part of a frame-
up?
48 78-card deck
51 Place to take it
on
52 Tops
54 Needing
directions
55 Batik colors
57 Type of wolf
59 Conservative
leader

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Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Others may not be reacting to you in the way you have anticipated. Irritation, followed by self-doubt, will be the result.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Now is no time to put off until tomorrow what can be addressed. The surest way to solve a problem is to face it head on — right now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Without knowing it, you may be responding to pressures from loved ones to behave in a way unnatural for you. Draw the line.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You're in no mood to put up with restraints or limitations of any kind — but on the other hand, don't let yourself get carried away, either.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may be volatile, unsettled, unpredictable and even intimidating to some people. Get to the bottom of a hot emotional issue.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Others must get used to leaving you alone to figure out, on your own, what is your best course of action. Stress independence.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You may take your newfound authority too much to heart and begin intruding on others who are simply trying to do their jobs. Back off before it's too late.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your natural sentimentality, though usually hidden, will

play an important role throughout your busy day. Balance emotions and intellectual, rational responses.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your steady, rational side will be at odds with your more flighty, impulsive side. Which will win? Much depends on focus on details.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You may not get all the answers you think you need, but the information you get can be put to profitable use almost immediately.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You'll find satisfaction in relating to Aquarius, Pisces or Cancer natives who share your interest in the well-being of others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You may be moody, but don't let your emotions get the better of you. You don't want to risk harming your reputation.

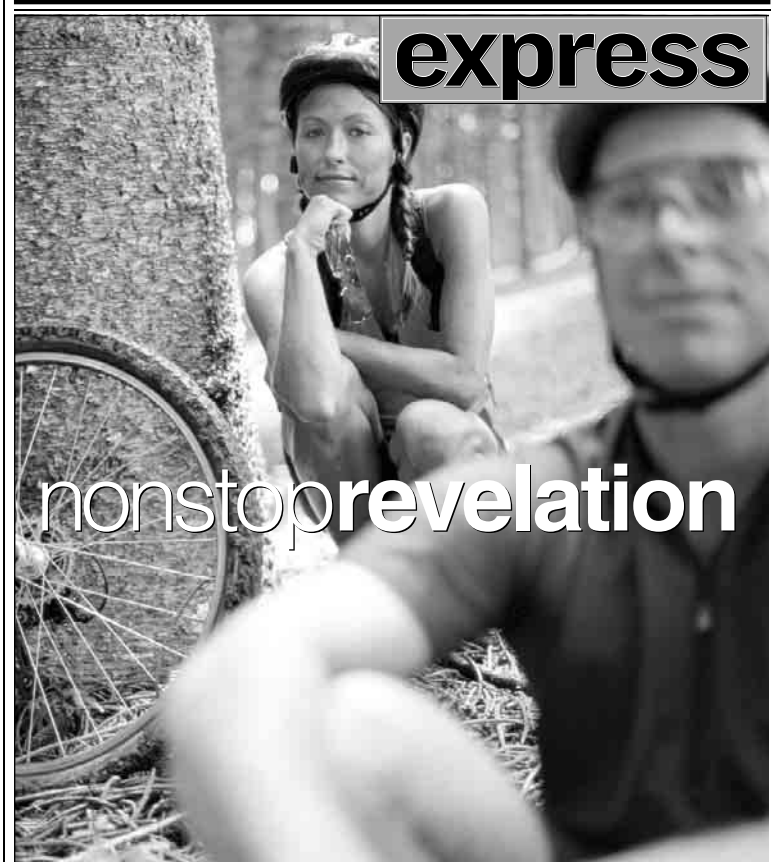
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